Biden administration redoubling efforts to expand supply of test kits. **NEWS, PAGE 4**

Reid honored at Capitol

Colleagues remember Late Sen. Harry Reid as a "legendary leader." **NEWS, PAGE 4**

UConn women win

Five players score in double figures as the Huskies rout Butler. **SPORTS, PAGE 1**

Warmer afternoon



Mixed clouds and sunshine, with a high of 41. **SPORTS, PAGE 6**





Courant

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The growth of Hartford HealthCare has "been aided by its campaign of intimidation," according to the lawsuit. "Hartford HealthCare has told some physicians that if they did not agree to join its practice, that Hartford HealthCare would 'crush' them."

Health care monopoly alleged

Saint Francis Hospital sues Hartford HealthCare, claims anti-competitive and threatening practices

By Dave Altimari CT Mirror

Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center has sued Hartford HealthCare and its subsidiaries, including Hartford Hospital, claiming that it is trying to create a monopoly on hospital services by acquiring physician networks, particularly cardiologists, and demanding that they refer their patients only to

Hartford HealthCare.

The 75-page lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in New Haven alleges "a campaign of exclusion, acquisition and intimidation" and claims that Hartford HealthCare executives have stated in meetings that their plan was to "crush" or "bury" Saint Francis.

The lawsuit claims that Hart-

ford HealthCare, as it has acquired physician practices over the last four years, has threatened and intimidated physicians who don't comply with its "dictates."

The lawsuit sheds light on many issues that normally remain behind closed doors but could be aired in a courtroom as the two giants fight a legal battle that could affect the

delivery of health care in the Hartford region for years to come.

"Our team is reviewing the complaint and our assessment is that the complaint is without any merit," Hartford HealthCare chief clinical officer Dr. Ajay Kumar said during a press call Wednesday.

Turn to Lawsuit, Page 3

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

SHOW OF FORCE



Aiming to raise awareness about safety concerns, including mask shortages, teachers dressed in black and gathered outside Windsor High School before the start of instruction Wednesday morning. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

Teachers wear black to protest lack of COVID-19 safety in schools, but leaders aren't budging on remote learning

By Seamus McAvoy | Hartford Courant

eachers at schools across Connecticut wore black to work on Wednesday to draw attention to growing concerns amid the latest surge in COVID-19 cases, citing scarcity in safety supplies and a lack of adequate protocols. ¶ In a statement, union leaders said there has been a "failure to distribute the promised N95 masks and home test kits, extensive

staff shortages," and emphasized "the need for flexibility in allowing for short-term remote learning." \P But state leaders, department officials and school administrators remain united in their stance that every step to protect the safety of students and staff has already been taken, and that remote learning — even in the short term — is not an option.

Gov. Ned Lamont said Wednesday he is "doing everything I can to avoid" a return to remote learning."

"We really want to make sure every kid goes to school, that there's not a mix and a match, and a hybrid, and a back and forth. That didn't work," Lamont said.

Inadequate supply of masks and tests: In a survey by a coalition of labor unions, more than 60% of teachers, paraprofessionals and other staff say their schools lack the supplies and proper COVID-19 safety protocols to feel safe at work.

About 70% of educators said they couldn't access masks before returning to school on Jan. 3. More than half say administrators don't understand myriad challenges they're facing.

Turn to Schools, Page 3

■ Inside: Federal court upholds law that eliminates a religious exemption to school vaccination requirements. News, Page 3

GENERAL ASSEMBLY



James Rovella, head of state police, will meet with the legislature's public safety committee.

Drop in traffic stops on agenda

Committee to meet with police brass as highway deaths rise

By Christopher Keating Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — With highway enforcement down and traffic deaths up, state legislators will be meeting Thursday with the Connecticut state police commissioner to find solutions to improving public safety.

Both Democratic and Republican lawmakers on the legislature's public safety committee will meet with James C. Rovella, a former Hartford police chief who now oversees the state police.

The meeting was prompted by statistics showing that traffic enforcement by the state police dropped by more than half since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite vehicles driving faster, enforcement has been down sharply in several major categories, including total stops, tickets issued, and warnings given to drivers.

Traffic stops by troopers peaked most recently in 2014 with nearly 235,000 stops, according to statistics from the Institute of Municipal and Regional Policy at UConn in Hartford. That total fell to 157,007 in 2019 and then 75,988 in 2020 — the year that the ongoing pandemic started. The total dropped further to 59,891 for the first 10 months of 2021.

Turn to Stops, Page 2

Inflation at highest level in 40 years

Consumer Price Index surges by 7% since '20

By Jeanna Smialek and Ana Swanson The New York Times

Inflation climbed to its highest level in 40 years at the end of 2021, a troubling development for President Joe Biden and economic policymakers as rapid price gains erode consumer confidence and cast a shadow of uncertainty over the economy's future.

The Consumer Price Index

climbed 7% in the year through December, and 5.5% after stripping out volatile prices such as food and fuel. The last time the main inflation index eclipsed 7% was 1982.

Policymakers have spent months waiting for inflation to fade, hoping supply chain problems might ease and allow companies to catch up with booming consumer demand. Instead, continued waves of the coronavirus have locked down factories, and shipping companies have struggled to work through extended backlogs as consumers

continue to buy foreign goods at a rapid clip. Forecasters expect price gains to fade this year, but how quickly that will happen is unclear.

"Obviously 7% is a pretty big sticker shock," said Omair Sharif, founder of the research firm Inflation Insights.

He added that inflation could plateau around 7%, but will take time to ease back from that peak. It is likely to end 2022 lower, but still above the near-2% level that policymakers prefer.

Turn to Inflation, Page 2



Shoppers pick up items at a supermarket Wednesday in Glendale, Calif. Food prices rose 6.3% in 2021. ROBYN BECK/GETTY-AFP

Eight injured in Hartford fire; 32 people displaced

Eight people were taken to the hospital Wednesday morning, including one who jumped from a window, after a fire burned in their Hartford apartment building. **CONNECTICUT, PAGE1**

Puzzles ... Connecticut, 7, 9 Comics ... Connecticut, 8-9 Hartford Courant



FROM PAGE ONE

Stops

from Page 1

State Rep. Greg Howard, the ranking House Republican on the committee, said in an interview that lawmakers are trying to find answers so they can make improvements during the next regular session that starts on Feb. 9.

"Cars stops are way down. Fatalities are up, said Howard, a police officer in Stonington for the past 20 years. "What is going on and how can we help? What is the root cause? ... What is the plan and how can we help?"

Lawmakers will be asking Rovella for answers regarding both finances and poli-

Only the leaders of the public safety committee - rather than the full membership - will participate in the meeting, which is not a public hearing.

Both the state police brass and the troopers' union have cited low staffing as a reason for fewer patrols on the highways and fewer traffic stops. The total of troopers peaked at 1,283 under Republican Gov. M. Jodi Rell about 15 years ago, and the number has dropped below 900 at times due to retirements before going back up over 900. Currently, 65 troopers are being trained at the police academy.

An estimated 276 troopers will be eligible to retire by July 1, 2022 - when changes in the cost-of-living adjustments in state pensions could prompt a large number of retirements. Attrition at the younger levels is an issue too. State police made 127 offers last year to candidates, leading to 120 starting in the academy, officials said. But only 83 graduated because many dropped out due to the rigorous training process.

Andrew Matthews, a retired sergeant who serves as executive director of the state troopers union, says that other reasons for lack of enforcement include concerns about the COVID-19 virus spreading to troopers and low police morale that was caused by the new police accountability law that many officers opposed.

"Our troopers saw it with the police accountability bill," Matthews said recently. "When you don't feel supported, you're not eager to go out and self-initiate motor vehicle stops.

When you feel like you're not going to be supported by the legislature, when you feel you're not supported by the command staff, and you're going to be attacked and have internal affairs complaints and go through all that"

Despite the reasons cited by Matthews, both Gov. Ned Lamont and Rep. Stephen Stafstrom, the co-chairman of the legislature's judiciary committee, dismissed the idea that the police accountability law translates into few traffic stops.

Besides the number of total stops, the latest statistics show that stops with tickets issued also dropped by more than 50% from 105,000 in 2019 to slightly more than 45,000 in 2020. Tickets dropped further again to 27,596 for the first 10 months of this year. Stops

with warnings from troopers fell from 2019 to 2020, but then rebounded in the first 10 months this year at more than 27,000 warnings, surpassing all of 2020.

For both state and local police, the combined number of stops statewide dropped from 512,000 in 2019 to about 188,000 in 2021.

Democrats supported the police accountability law and Republicans who opposed it have remained divided over whether the measure will improve policing across the state. At the same time, police chiefs and rank-andfile officers say they are concerned the law will lead to difficulties in recruiting new officers and prompt some older officers to retire

at a time of low morale. Howard, who talks to fellow police officers on

a regular basis, said that most officers are dedicated to their profession. After 20 years on the force, he says he has taken only four sick days — and he says he is not an anomaly in the police world.

"Do we have people who are here for a paycheck and an early pension and to be able to go hide on third shift and do nothing? Yes, we do have that," Howard said Wednesday. "Are there cops out there who are using the police bill and using COVID as their excuse to do nothing when they would have done nothing, anyway? Yes, we have that. But those are a minority of the profession. A majority wants to go to work and do their job.'

Christopher Keating can be reached at ckeating@ courant.com

Inflation

from Page 1

The data released Wednesday showed the cost of used cars and food both increasing quickly, and provided further evidence that price gains are broadening beyond just a few pandemic-disrupted categories. Rents continue to pick up at a solid pace, and restaurant meals are more expensive, possibly a sign that recent wage increases are beginning to feed into higher prices as employers look to cover higher labor

That price increases are becoming more widespread is a worrisome development for economic policymakers, who are now poised to respond. Federal Reserve officials have indicated that they expect to raise interest rates several times this year as they try to cool demand and the economy in an attempt to prevent the pandemic-era burst in prices from becoming a permanent feature of the economic landscape.

Jerome Powell, the Fed chair, emphasized Tuesday



A man walks past a deserted restaurant in Miami Beach, Florida, on Wednesday. The costs of housing, cars and food have increased quickly — a worrisome development for economic policymakers. CHANDAN KHANNA/GETTY-AFP

that the central bank was shifting into inflation-fighting mode after nearly two years of trying to prop up the pandemic-stricken economy by keeping interest rates near zero.

Officials expect price gains to slow considerably, but are closely watching how quickly that happens as they consider the pace of rate increases. Investors expect four rate moves this year, and policymakers penciled in three as of their December meeting.

Fed officials target a separate inflation index, the personal consumption expenditures measure. The CPI data released Wednesday feeds into those figures and are released earlier. which is why they draw investor and policymaker

Controlling inflation is primarily the Fed's job, but rising prices are a political liability for Biden. Democrats are heading into a challenging midterm election year when they will battle to retain control of Congress. Republicans have increasingly accused Biden and his party of driving prices higher by flooding the economy with too much money in 2021, including a third round of stimulus checks, and the president's poll numbers are showing dissatisfaction among voters.

Inflation concerns are also complicating Biden's ability to pass his sprawling climate and social policy bill. Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., holds a key vote given the razor-thin majority his party hold in the Senate. Manchin has cited high prices as one of the reasons he won't back the legislation.

Biden and his advisers have tried to put a positive spin on the numbers, while acknowledging the pain that price increases are causing consumers. They point to the economy's quick rebound from the pandemic-induced 2020 recession, including falling levels of unemployment.

Policymakers and economists had initially hoped that rapid price gains would fade quickly in 2021, and many still expect them to moderate throughout 2022. But economists are paying attention to a few factors

that could keep prices rising too quickly for comfort.

Housing costs, based on what it costs to rent a place to live, make up about a third of the Consumer Price Index, so the fact that landlords are charging more will matter to overall inflation.

"My gut feeling is that the pace of appreciation is going to be slower in 2022 than it was in 2021," said Jeff Tucker, a senior economist at Zillow. "But I don't see rents actually dropping or getting more affordable."

Global supply chains also continue to experience disruptions that are leading to shortages of parts and products and pushing costs higher across broad array of consumer goods.

The price of food grew 6.3% and apparel rose 5.8% in the year to December. Used cars and trucks — a big driver of price gains since last spring, along with new vehicles — surged 37.3%. Auto manufacturers have been struggling to obtain parts particularly computer chips imported from Asia – delaying production of new vehicles and pushing up demand for a finite supply of used

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PLAY3 DAY

PLAY4 DAY

0.067 ws: 02 0 7 ws: 4

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TUESDAY'S LATE NUMBERS PLAY3 NIGHT 190 ws:0 **PLAY4 NIGHT** 5 7 5 4 ws: 8 CASH 5

LUCKY FOR LIFE 2 5 8 18 43 LB: 16 LOTTO 4 14 21 22 24 25

10 21 26 28 33

MEGA MILLIONS 2 3 19 52 58 MB: 16 MP: 2



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PUBLISHING

FROM PAGE ONE

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Court upholds law ending vaccine exemption in schools

By Edmund H. Mahony Hartford Courant

A federal court has upheld a new state law that eliminates a religious exemption to state vaccination requirements for communicable diseases, including COVID-19, for public and private school students.

Two organizations, We the Patriots USA and CT Freedom Alliance, joined three parents with different religious beliefs in a suit against a variety of state agencies and local school boards in an effort to block enforcement of the law.

The groups and the parents claimed the new law violates a number of constitutional protections, among them the freedom to practice religion and rear

U.S. District Judge Janet Bond Arterton dismissed

the suit in its entirety. She said the state agencies, as arms of the state, are immune from such suits, and the two organizations lacked standing to sue because they could not show how they are specifically harmed by the law.

The parent claims fail, Arterton said, because, among other things, the Supreme Court has upheld mandatory vaccination laws in public health emergencies and the new law "is constitutional because it is a neutral law of general applicability which is rationally related to a legitimate state purpose.'

"Vaccines save lives," said Attorney General William Tong, who's office defended the law. "The legislature's action was fully lawful and necessary to protect public health. The plaintiffs threw a laundry list of claims against the state, and every

single count was dismissed. I want to thank the attornevs in my office for their excellent work arguing this case on behalf of the state and the thousands of children, families and educators who will be safer due to this outcome."

The parents — a Protestant, a Catholic and a Muslim — argued that vaccines contain cell lines derived from aborted fetal cells and that injecting themselves and their children with such cells would amount to what one parent called "participation in ... an act of intentional, premeditated murder." They also claimed vaccines contain animal derivatives, including pork.

One parent said she was forbidden by religion from ingesting pork and another said she is raising her children as vegans for religious reasons.

Other civic and religious group's joined Tong's office in its defense of the law as friends of the court.

They described themselves in a filing with the court as believing that "the right to exercise religion freely is precious, but that it was never intended to override protections for people's safety and health."

They argued that childhood vaccinations have prevented more than 100 million cases of severe disease, that all 50 states impose vaccination requirements on children attending schools, and that recent anti-vaccination sentiment "has led to resurgences of dangerous diseases such as measles, mumps, and pertussis."

The new state law requires immunizations for all children before enrolling in school. Before 2021, students could apply for medical or religious exemptions to that requirement.

The new law eliminated the religious exemption, while grandfathering students in kindergarten through grade 12 who had already received such exemptions.

The General Assembly eliminated the religious exemption for school children at the height of the coronavirus pandemic and after lengthy debate and widespread protest.

Few issues have been as contentious and polarizing as the effort to rescind the religious exemption, which had been part of state law since 1959. There were mass protests outside the Capitol as the legislation was debated.

Gov. Ned Lamont signed the law in late April.

"When it comes to the safety of our children, we need to take an abun-

dance of caution," he said. "This legislation is needed to protect our kids against serious illnesses that have been well-controlled for many decades, such as measles, tuberculosis, and whooping cough, but have reemerged. In recent years, the number of children in our state who have not received routine vaccinations has been steadily increasing, which has been mirrored by significant growth in preventable diseases across the nation."

"I want to make it clear." he said, "this law does not take away the choice of parents to make medical decisions for their children. But, if they do choose not to have their children vaccinated, this bill best ensures that other children and their families will not be exposed to these deadly diseases for hours each day in our schools."

Schools

from Page 1

The survev was conducted by the Board of Education Union Coalition, which represents more than 60,000 public education employees in Connecticut.

The coalition received responses from more than 5,500 school staff between Jan. 7 and Jan. 10. The sample was not randomized, and participation varied from district to district.

On Wednesday, Lamont highlighted the 620,000 tests the state has now distributed to K-12 students and teachers, and the more than 2 million tests distributed in all.

The state has also handed out about 5 million N95 masks, which are seen by health experts to be most effective at preventing infection from the highly infectious omicron variant.

Union leaders say some towns have still had trouble getting them before returning to school, even though N95 masks are now less scarce in stores and online. Some schools that opened this week still didn't have masks, according to Kate Dias, president of the Connecticut Education Association.

Those claims, and the survey results, came as a surprise to officials. Lamont said he believes schools have "overwhelmingly" received the supplies on time.

"If there are a few outliers out there, give us a call, I'll drive them there myself," Lamont said.

Fran Rabinowitz, executive director of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents, was also under the impression schools had the supply of N95 masks they needed to

The association has been in "constant communication" with the teachers unions and with the state Department of Education. Rabinowitz said. adding that "everyone has a right to feel safe in schools."

A few districts didn't receive their masks as early as others, but those issues had mostly been addressed, Rabinowitz said. "I'm trying



Windsor High School teachers wore black Wednesday to protest a lack of COVID-19 safety in schools. Teachers are demanding more testing, and union leaders say schools failed to receive promised N95 masks on time. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

very hard to understand it,"

Teachers and other staff members also are demanding more at-home rapid tests, which have proven hard to come by for the general public. Lines for PCR tests remain long, with several workplaces requiring negative lab tests for employees to return to work.

"I do think more testing is warranted, and I agree with the educators on that," Rabinowitz said.

Robert Rader, executive director of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, acknowledged the teachers concerns that there is "not enough being done to help them."

"All I can say is that our districts are doing the best they can," he said. "They're getting out masks, and helping with tests as appropriate."

"We're all awed by the work that teachers and principals and superintendents have done over the last couple of years, and our hope is that such difficult issues will be behind us soon," Rader added.

The state Department of Education is in "continuous dialogue" with union partners, a department spokesperson wrote in a statement.

"The Department of Education with support and guidance from the entire Lamont Administration is continuing the implementation of innovative processes to address staffing shortages, deploy millions of masks and test-kits for staff and students, and expand testing capacity within our schools and our communities," they wrote.

Remote learning a non-starter for leaders: According to the union survey, nearly 90% of school staff believe superintendents should have the ability to implement remote instruction days in the short term.

Staffing shortages and student absences have slammed districts in recent days, and some administrators have had no choice but to close schools.

Waterbury was closed Monday and is only open for half days this week amid COVID-related absences among teachers and bus drivers. The district reported 241 staff members positive for COVID-19 and 343 were absent on Tuesday, according to Dias.

Union members claim a remote option would give them the flexibility to continue on schedule with their lessons plans during times of high community transmission or severe outbreaks within schools.

Currently, state law only views remote learning as an adequate replacement for students who need to quarantine, or for those who live with vulnerable family members, but not for entire schools.

The state legislature disallowed widespread remote learning when it passed the June 2021 Public Acts, and guidance from the state Department of Education does not mandate a remote

The flexibility to move instruction online in the short term, like union leaders are calling for, would have to come as an executive order from Lamont's office, barring a new law. Such an option is not under consideration.

"From our standpoint, there's no value to us in remote learning. No value. None," Max Reiss, Lamont's

communications director, told the Courant Wednesday. "For student development, for child development. academic success and social interaction, there's no value

Senate President Pro Tem Martin Looney, D-New Haven, said Tuesday that options around building remote flexibility into the 180-day school calendar are "things we will look at" when the legislature reconvenes in February.

The priority remains on keeping kids in school, though, and Looney gave no indication that a remote option has any support among lawmakers.

Officials overwhelmingly agree that there is no substitute for in-person learning, and no new safety measures that jeopardize that should be expected.

"What we're not going to sacrifice is getting kids in the classroom," Reiss said.

COVID-19 relief money: Concerns over school safety have raised questions over how schools are using the millions of dollars in federal money they received under the previous two pieces of COVID-19 relief bills.

Connecticut schools received \$443 million from the CARES Act, including tens of millions of dollars for the state's largest districts.

Last fall, the state received federal approval to use \$1.1 billion in American Rescue Plan dollars as schools prepared to return to safe, in-person learning.

Under the plan approved by the federal Department of Education, districts were directed to use those funds on one-time, self-sustaining investments, or on projects focused on "measurement and impact."

Districts were also required to use at least 20% of the money to address the learning loss that occurred during a year of mostly remote instruction, according to a report by the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education with help from the state Department of Education.

Examples include investments in after school and summer enrichment programs, but not necessarily on upgrades to COVID-related safety.

Projects vary widely. Middletown is strengthening its career and technology learning, and Bridgeport is funding internships for college kids to serve as tutors. Multiple communities are using the money to fund universal pre-K.

Thought schools directed their investments into other areas of need, several mitigation strategies remain in place inside schools.

Masking and distancing is still required. The state Department of Education recently updated its guidance in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which reduced the quarantine period and shifted the focus onto detecting symptomatic cases.

State leaders are reluctant to implement more strict measures, such as an N95 mask mandate among staff. No government official has given any indication that a remote option is on the table.

"I think we're all hoping for the positivity rate to take a real dip in the next few weeks," Rader said.

Lawsuit

from Page 1

"Hartford Healthcare will vigorously defend [against] these allegations. We deny any of them to be true. The real focus for all of us at this time is serving the need of the community in Connecticut.," Kumar said. "Our teams remain determinedly focused on making sure that in this raging pandemic we continue to pay attention to what matters most at the moment — the health and well-being of the patients, access to testing, access to information, access to monoclonal antibodies, access to care. Our team is focused on that at the moment."

A spokesperson for Trinity Health of New England, the parent company of St. Francis, issued a statement Tuesday night: "Our ultimate goal is to ensure that residents of the greater Hartford area have access to health care that is high in quality with lower costs."

Saint Francis is seeking financial damages, a court order to divest any physician practices that Hartford HealthCare has purchased since 2020 and a permanent injunction prohibiting what it describes as "anticompetitive conduct."

Despite providing "health care that is higher cost and lesser quality" than its competitors, Hartford HealthCare — which operates Hartford Hospital – is cornering the market on lucrative operations such as cardiac and orthopedic surgeries by forcing doctors to send their patients only to Hartford HealthCare hospitals or by obtaining exclusive rights to robotic equipment — specifically a "Mako" robot used in many knee and other bone procedures, the lawsuit alleges.

The lawsuit also claims that other hospitals in the Hartford region -Manchester Memorial Hospital, UConn Health and Bristol Hospital also suffer due to Hartford HealthCare's "anticompetitive conduct."

It also claims that Hartford HealthCare and its network "have interfered with managed care plans' use of 'tiered' networks, which provide employers and consumers with an opportunity to obtain lower cost, higher quality health care at a preferred rate."

The lawsuit names 21 physicians whose practices were acquired by Hartford HealthCare over the last four years and nine others who became exclusively affiliated with Hartford HealthCare's network, known as Integrated Care Partners, or ICP.

Among them is Ulysses Wu, an infectious disease specialist who has spoken to media including CT Mirror about the COVID pandemic. Saint Francis also lost Muzibul Chowdhury, a cardiologist, to Hartford HealthCare, the lawsuit states.

"Dr. Chowdhury admitted the most cardiology cases at Saint Francis prior to his acquisition," the lawsuit states. "Many of these losses are especially harmful to Saint Francis, and to competition, disproportionate to the numbers of physicians lost."

'Hartford HealthCare's acquisition of the physician practices of cardiologists is especially harmful to Saint Francis and Hartford HealthCare's other hospital competitors. That is because cardiac and cardiac surgery cases are among the most profitable cases for hospitals, and therefore the loss of such cases is especially harmful."

'Campaign of intimidation'

The growth of Hartford HealthCare has "been aided by its campaign of intimidation," the lawsuit goes on to say. "Hartford HealthCare has told some physicians that if they did not agree to join its practice, that Hartford HealthCare would 'crush' them."

The lawsuit alleges that Hartford HealthCare executives in some cases "said more specifically that if the physician did not join Hartford HealthCare, that Hartford HealthCare would recruit a physician to compete specifically against that doctor. In other cases, Hartford HealthCare has threatened specialist physicians with the loss of referrals from its more than 50 employed primary care physicians."

The lawsuit alleges that Hartford HealthCare is violating Connecticut's Unfair Trade Practices Act and the federal Sherman Act by "unreasonably restrained trade in each of the relevant markets."

It argues that because they have created a monopoly, they are able to set higher prices, and health care plans are forced to accept them because of the hospital's wide range of physicians.

"Hartford HealthCare charges higher prices in part because it has higher costs than Saint Francis or other hospitals in the area. For example, even after adjusting for the complexity of cases, patients at Hartford Hospital stay in the hospital 10% longer than if they are hospitalized at Saint Francis," the lawsuit states.

"This both increases costs and reduces quality, since longer hospital stays create a risk of possible hospital-acquired infections. Patients are also unable to return home as quickly as they would like. Hartford HealthCare is able to maintain its dominant position despite these deficiencies because of its market power and its anticompetitive conduct."

WORLD NATION

Biden redoubling focus on testing

More rapid, PCR kits ordered for use in nation's schools

By Zeke Miller Associated Press

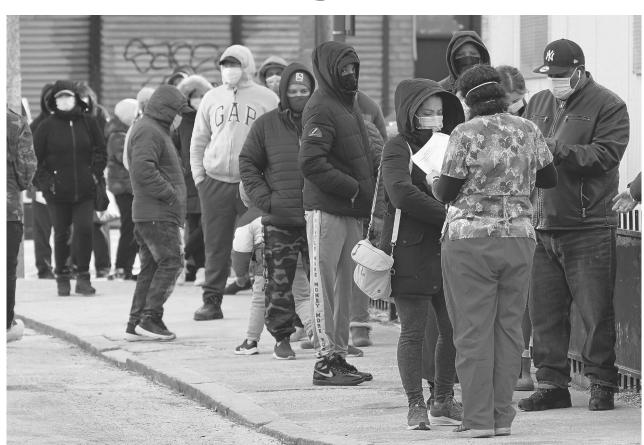
WASHINGTON — The Biden administration is redoubling its efforts to expand supply and accessibility of COVID-19 testing as it faces mounting criticism over long lines and supply shortages for testing nationwide and confusion about when to get tested amid the omicron surge.

The White House announced Wednesday that a dedicated stream of 5 million rapid tests and 5 million lab-based PCR tests will be made available to schools starting this month to ease supply shortages and promote the safe reopening of schools.

It said Dr. Tom Inglesby, director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security at the Bloomberg School of Public Health, will join the COVID-19 team to oversee the enhanced testing push. The moves come just days before private insurers will be required to reimburse Americans for tests and the launch of a new federal website for Americans to order free tests to be shipped to their doors.

The test supply push, though, will likely be too late for many Americans trying to safely navigate the omicron-fueled case surge, which is already showing signs of cresting.

President Joe Biden plans to update the country on his administration's efforts on Thursday, a speech that comes as his administration faces escalating criticism from health experts and



People wait in line to receive a test for the coronavirus Wednesday in Boston. CHARLES KRUPA/AP

even some former advisers.

"The big tragedy here is that we came through last winter and even the summer, and never did the work to address the structural issues that are putting us back in the situation that we're in right now," said Dr. Megan Ranney, academic dean at the Brown University School of Public Health. "Nothing that is happening today is unpredictable."

Some of today's challenges are rooted in decisions made months ago, said Dr. Rick Bright, a public health expert at the Rockefeller Foundation and a former member of Biden's transition team. He said administration officials failed to prepare for more contagious variants when Biden declared on the Fourth of July that the country was "closer than ever to declaring our independence from a deadly virus."

"They underestimated this virus," Bright said.

Now, he said, "the administration is overwhelmed with this current surge."

Dr. Rochelle Walensky, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, on Wednesday offered guidance for when Americans should use tests which were in short supply as Americans traveled and saw family during the busy holiday season.

"Americans should take a

test when they have symptoms that appear to be COVID-19," she said, including fever, cough, sore throat, respiratory symptoms and muscle aches.

Walensky also said Americans should test after known exposure to the virus, generally five days after being exposed, or earlier as part of test-to-stay protocols in schools and workplaces.

"Certainly if you're going to gather with family, if you're going to a gathering where people are immunocompromised or where they're elderly or where you have people who might be unvaccinated or poorly protected from a vaccine that might be an opportunity you want to test," she added. The school testing initia-

tive announced Wednesday comes after the nation's third-largest public school system, in Chicago, closed for days after an impasse between teachers and officials over reopening policies.

The closure was a black eye for Biden, who made reopening schools - and keeping them open — a priority of the White House response.

Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said students need to be in their classrooms and the announcement shows the administration's commitment to helping schools stay

"We're doing everything we can to make sure that our children have an opportunity to stay in school," Cardona said Wednesday on "CBS Mornings." "That's where they need to be, and we know we can do it safely."

States are applying to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the tests, Cardona said, adding that he expected distribution to begin as early as next week.

We recognize that schools are the hubs of the community" and they should be open for instruction, the secretary added, saying it is "vital for our students."

"We have been very clear, publicly and privately, that we want to see schools open," White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Monday. She cited the massive amount of funding for schools as evidence of the administration ensuring "we were prepared and had resources needed to address whatever may come up in the pandemic."

The new crop of tests is enough to cover only a small fraction of the more than 50 million students and educators in the nation's schools, but it's on top of more than \$10 billion devoted to school-based tests authorized in the COVID-19 relief law and about \$130 billion earmarked in that law to keep kids in school.

Additionally, the CDC is set to release new guidance later this week to help schools implement "testto-stay" policies, in which schools use rapid tests to keep close contacts of those who test positive in the classroom.

Los Angeles Times contrib-

Reid remembered while lying in state at Capitol

Ex-senator from Nevada dubbed a 'legendary leader'

By Lisa Mascaro Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The late Sen. Harry Reid was remembered Wednesday at the U.S. Capitol as a "legendary leader," a hardscrabble Democrat who rose from poverty in a dusty Nevada mining town to deliver landmark legislation from the chamber's most powerful position.

President Joe Biden, who has called Reid a "great American," paid silent tribute, stopping by briefly as Reid lay in state at the Capitol Rotunda. Biden made the sign of the cross and let his hand linger for a moment on the flag-draped casket.

Reid's family and colleagues joined for an earlier ceremony that was almost as succinct as the senator's own dry-humored style of hanging up the phone rather than engaging in lengthy goodbyes. He was recalled as one of the Senate's more significant, and memorable, leaders and a soft-spoken "force of

Reid, who had pancreatic cancer, died last month at

"Harry Reid made the world a better place," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.

"To see him lead and legislate was to see a master at work," added Pelosi, who worked with him when they were the top two Democrats in Congress.

Reid served longer in Congress than anyone from Nevada and was Senate majority leader alongside two presidents. He led the Senate during one of its more consequential legislative sessions, securing the economic recovery bill during the Great Recession and President Barack Obama's landmark health care law.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., spoke of having to explain Reid's abrupt style. "Even though Harry talked softly, what he said carried the force of thunder," Schumer

The service was largely closed to the public under COVID-19 protocols, though former colleagues, staff and others steamed in to visit during the day and most wore masks. He was only the 15th senator have to had the honor; his casket rested on the catafalque used for Abraham Lincoln.

Vice President Kamala Harris did not speak during the ceremony, but paused at the casket in tribute, as did the Republican leaders in Congress - Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky and Rep. Kevin McCarthy of California. Later, Justices Sonia Sotomavor and Elena Kagan stopped by.

Influential in retirement, Reid said that after Biden won the election, he should give his new presidency just three weeks to try to work with Republicans. If not, Biden should force changes in the Senate's filibuster rules to allow simple majority passage of elections and voting rights legislation and other priorities, Reid said.

"The time's going to come when he's going to have to move in and get rid of the

filibuster," Reid said. With the Senate in difficult discussions this week on changes to the filibuster to push election and voting legislation past Republican objections, Schumer leaned on Reid's legacy as a "steward of the Senate."

'He also knew the Senate had to adapt to changing times," Schumer said.

During the ceremony, Landra Reid, the senator's wife of 62 years, held a black hat that her husband often wore in his final years, as



President Joe Biden touches the flag-draped casket of former Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada on Wednesday. Reid died in December at the age of 82. MARIAM ZUHAIB/AP

she sat in the Rotunda with the couple's five adult children. As she approached the casket, she set the hat beneath it under the Capitol dome, before placing a hand out in a kiss goodbye.

First elected to the House in 1982 and reelected in 1984. Reid served 30 years in the Senate, including a decade as the Senate Democratic leader.

A man of few words, Reid often wrote notes to family, colleagues and a Nevada student advocate who had reached out on immigration law changes. He championed the Dream Act and Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals to protect young immigrants in the U.S. without legal status from deporta-

As his power rose, Reid engineered a Democratic legacy for his state with Nevada's early presidential caucus. He left behind a state party apparatus that was sometimes referred to as the "Reid Machine" for its enduring political power seeking to elect the next generation of Democratic leaders.

After an exercise accident at home, and with Democrats back in the Senate minority. Reid announced he would not seek reelection in 2016.

In his farewell address to the Senate, he acknowledged he had done things that "probably a lot of people wouldn't do." But he passed on his advice to those wondering how he made it to Washington.

"I didn't make it because of my good looks. I didn't make it because I am a genius. I made it because I worked hard," Reid said.

COVID-19 top cause of death among police officers in 2021, report says

Bryson Taylor

The New York Times

For the second year in a row, COVID-19 was the leading cause of death for U.S. law enforcement officers, according to a report released Tuesday by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.

A total of 458 officers died in the line of duty in the country last year, making it the deadliest year in more than 90 years and a 55% increase from 2020,

according to preliminary data compiled by the organization.

Of those, it found that 301 federal, state, tribal and local law enforcement officers had died because of COVID-19.

"It has been reported to NLEOMF that these officers have died due to direct exposure to the virus during the commission of their official duties," the report

Felony assaults were responsible for the deaths of 84 officers last year, including 62 officers killed with firearms, the report said. Fifty-eight were killed in traffic-related incidents while working the road-

Both the number of deaths from firearm assaults and traffic-related fatalities had risen from the previous year.

The remaining deaths were attributed to reasons such as heart attacks, strokes and 9/11-related illnesses, the report said. Other officers were killed in beatings, drownings

and stabbings. One officer was killed by floodwaters, and another was killed in a

In the three decades before the pandemic, the organization's annual tally of officers killed in the line of duty surpassed 200 only twice, in 2001 and 2007. The last time it went above 300 was in 1930.

Last fall, it was reported that more than 460 U.S. law enforcement officers had died from COVID-19 infections tied to their work since the start of the

With no comprehensive accounting of how many officers had been sickened with the virus, departments from coast to coast reported large outbreaks in the ranks. Vaccinations, which have proven to be effective in preventing severe illness and death, have remained a hard sell for some officers.

In recent months, as local governments began implementing vaccine mandates for workers, some police officers and law enforcement unions have pushed

back, threatening resignations and legal action.

In October, New York City's largest police union sued over the city's vaccine mandate.

The Police Benevolent Association of New York said it opposed a vaccine mandate for officers that does not allow an option of being tested weekly instead of being vaccinated.

A federal judge this week dismissed a lawsuit filed by several Los Angeles police officers who had sued over the city's vaccine mandate.



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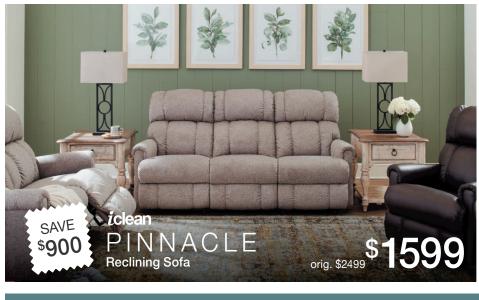
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WORLD & NATION

NEWS BRIEFING

Trump rips politicians over failing to disclose COVID-19 boosters

From news services

NEW YORK — Former President Donald Trump is slamming politicians who refuse to say whether they have received COVID-19 booster shots as "gutless."

"You gotta say it. Whether you had it or not, say it," Trump said in an interview that aired Tuesday night on the conservative One America News Network.

Trump, who was booed last month by supporters after revealing he had gotten a booster shot, has become increasingly vocal in calling out those who have questioned the vaccines' efficacy and safety. It's a change in posture for Trump as he eyes a White House run in 2024.

Even though the vaccines were developed during the Trump administration, they remain deeply unpopular with large segments of the Republican base, fueled in part by rampant disinformation. Trump, while in office, consistently downplayed the risk posed by COVID-19 and he received his vaccine privately, even as other members of his administration were inoculated in public to help boost confidence in the shots.

"Well, I've taken it. I've had the booster," Trump said in the interview. "I watched a couple of politicians be interviewed and one of the questions was, 'Did you get the booster?' And they, 'Oh, oh,' they're answering it — like in other words, the answer is 'Yes,' but they don't want to say it. Because they're mutles."

Trump did not name names, and his spokespeople did not immediately respond to questions about which politicians he was referencing. But Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, a rising star in the Republican Party who is often mentioned as a possible

2024 presidential contender, has notably declined to say whether he has received a booster.

Many House Republicans, including top Trump allies, have also declined to disclose their vaccination status.

PM Johnson apologizes: Prime Minister Boris Johnson apologized Wednesday for attending a garden party during Britain's first coronavirus lockdown, but brushed aside demands that he resign for breaching the rules his own government had imposed on the nation.

The apology was Johnson's attempt to assuage a tide of anger from the public and politicians over accusations he and his staff repeatedly flouted pandemic restrictions by socializing when it was banned.

Trying to calm the furor, Johnson acknowledged for the first time Wednesday that he went to a May 2020 garden party at his Downing Street office, though he said that he had considered it a work event to thank staff for their efforts during the pandemic.

"I want to apologize," Johnson told lawmakers in the House of Commons. "With hindsight, I should have sent everyone back inside."

Opponents and allies have been demanding Johnson come clean about the party, held when Britons were banned from meeting more than one person outside their households to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

Opposition Labour Party leader Keir Starmer said the British public thought Johnson was "lying through his touth"

Prince Andrew lawsuit: A judge in New York has for now refused to dismiss a lawsuit against Britain's



Rescuers and security forces sift through rubble after a car bomb exploded Wednesday at the international airport in Mogadishu, Somalia. Eight people were killed and another nine were injured, according to a local doctor. The al-Shabab extremist group claimed responsibility for the attack. The airport is also the site of the U.S. Embassy. FARAH ABDI WARSAMEH/AP

Prince Andrew by an American woman who says he sexually abused her when she was 17.

U.S. District Judge Lewis Kaplan rejected an argument by Andrew's lawyers that Virginia Giuffre's suit should be thrown out at an early stage because of an old legal settlement she had with Jeffrey Epstein, the financier she claims set up sexual encounters with the prince.

Kaplan said the \$500,000 settlement between Epstein and Giuffre didn't involve the prince. Giuffre sued Andrew, 61, in August, saying she was coerced into sexual encounters with him in 2001 by Epstein and his long-time companion, Ghislaine Maxwell. Giuffre said she was sexually abused by Andrew multiple times.

Andrew's lawyers had said the lawsuit lacked specificity and was disqualified by the deal she reached in 2009 with lawyers for Epstein.

NKorea missile test: North Korea said Wednesday its

leader Kim Jong Un oversaw a successful flight test of a hypersonic missile he claimed would remarkably increase the country's nuclear "war deterrent."

The state media report came a day after the militaries of the United States, South Korea and Japan said they detected North Korea firing what they suspected was a ballistic missile into its eastern sea.

The Korean Central News Agency said Tuesday's launch involved a hypersonic glide vehicle, which after its release from the rocket booster demonstrated "glide jump flight" and "corkscrew maneuvering" before hitting a sea target 621 miles away.

Photos released by the agency showed a missile mounted with a pointed cone-shaped payload soaring into the sky while leaving a trail of orange flames.

The launch was North Korea's second test of its purported hypersonic missile in a week. Iran frees detainee: An Iranian employee of the British Council detained for more than three years in Iran and sentenced to a decade in prison over widely criticized espionage charges has been freed and returned to the United Kingdom, the organization said Wednesday.

Aras Amiri won her appeal to Iran's Supreme Court, the British Council announced. She had been arrested during a private trip to visit family in Tehran that did not involve her work at the government-founded cultural organization, it previously said.

There was no immediate word on her release from Iranian authorities. But Amiri's lawyer, Hojjat Kermani, confirmed her acquittal to The Associated Press, saying that Iran's Supreme Court had determined that her earlier espionage conviction in the country's Revolutionary Court was "against Shariah," or Islamic law. He did not elaborate.

Rapper's slaying: A Tennessee man wanted in the fatal shooting of rapper Young Dolph in his hometown of Memphis was captured Tuesday in Indiana, while another man was indicted on murder charges, authorities said.

A grand jury indicted Cornelius Smith, 32, on first-degree murder and other charges in the shooting that killed Young Dolph, the Shelby County, Tennessee, District Attorney's Office

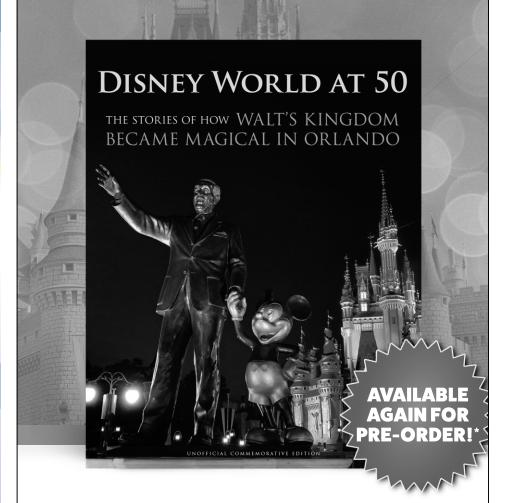
Smith, who was arrested last month on an auto-theft warrant involving the vehicle used in Young Dolph's killing, was being held without bond.

Separately, the U.S. Marshals Service said Justin Johnson, 23, was arrested, after a murder warrant was issued for him earlier this month. The agency did not say where in Indiana that Johnson was found.

Young Dolph, whose real name was Adolph Thornton Jr., was gunned down Nov. 17 at a cookie shop.







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Reunited families fear extortion

Talks of payments for separation spark threats in homeland

By Elliot Spagat, Ben Fox and Claudia Torrens Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For the 30-year-old Honduran woman, the worst seemed to be over. She's been reunited with her son who, as a 6-year-old, was separated from her under the Trump administration. She's working construction in North Carolina. And attorneys were negotiating a payment for families like hers that endured separations.

But reports about those negotiations have created a new worry: extortion attempts stemming from the mistaken belief that she received a huge payout. Her family has already received demands for \$5,000 a month.

"Apparently, I am a millionaire now," said the woman, who, like others interviewed by The Associated Press, spoke on condition of anonymity due to fears for her family's safety. "I don't have the money to pay for something like that, and I don't know what to do. I am desperate, really."

While specific reports are isolated, widespread extortion in Central America explains why many seek asylum in the United States in the first place. Some advocates fear prospects of large payments will fuel many more threats. An attorney for the woman and other families has asked U.S. officials to consider admitting more relatives because of the threats.

It is far from clear whether families will receive any money at all from the U.S. government. Negotiations to settle claims for damages ended amid political outrage over payments erupted following a report in the The Wall Street Journal that the Justice Department



Unaccompanied migrant children at a U.S. Customs and Border Protection facility in Donna, Texas. Families separated under the Trump administration now face extortion attempts for money that has not been paid. **DARIO LOPEZ-MILLS/POOL VIA AP 2021**

was considering \$450,000 a person to compensate for suffering — or \$900,000 for a parent and child. A person familiar with the talks who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because discussions were private confirmed that figure had been floated.

"People here think that I have lots of money," said a 47-year-old business owner in northern Guatemala whose wife was separated from their son. He has become more nervous because of news reports on the settlement talks and now changes his cellphone number every two weeks.

The man lives in Guatemala with his 14-year-old daughter, while his wife and now 18-year-old son live in Atlanta after being separated at the border for more than a month in 2018. The man said he was getting text messages at the time threatening to kidnap his son if he didn't pay money.

"My neighbor told me the other day, 'So you have money, because money was given to people who were separated in the United States.' And I told him that I did not know anything about that," he said.

The man said he and his daughter tried going to the U.S. in 2019. They were kidnapped in Mexico for two weeks, released to Mexican authorities after paying more than \$3,000 and deported to Guatemala.

"I don't live in peace," he said. "I am always looking over my shoulder."

Ricardo de Anda, an attorney for the Honduran woman and Guatemalan man, said five of the 72 families he represents have told him they were threatened after news coverage of the possible payments. One in Guatemala was targeted in an attempted kidnapping.

"These families have told us that they are now the subject of rumors in their communities as to the apparent wealth of family members in the U.S., that they have been subjected to surveillance by apparent criminal elements, and that they have been warned to be vigilant as criminal gangs are considering them the subjects of extortion," he wrote to Michelle Brane, executive director of the Homeland Security Department's Family Reunification Task Force. "As a result of the (news) leaks, family members in the U.S., and those trapped in home country, now live in constant fear."

The task force, which is aiming to reunite nearly 2,000 children with their parents in the United States, had planned for the possibility of extortion, realizing that such threats are common in Central America, and set up a system to channel reports through the U.N. refugee agency, Brane said in an interview last month.

Brane said she had not yet received any specific reports, but the potential danger underscores the need for the task force to complete its work.

"If families are in unsafe situations and need reunifi-

cation, we are here to work and get that done as soon as possible," she said.

The task force has reunited about 112 children with their parents in the U.S. as of last week. They are being granted permission to stay in the country for at least three years while they pursue asylum or seek permanent status through another program.

Other attorneys for the families said they had no direct knowledge of threats tied to possible payments but said they were inevitable, if they haven't happened already. The attorneys suspect some attempts have gone unreported or word hasn't reached them.

"I have no doubt that it's happening in more cases than we know about," said Trina Realmuto, executive director of the National Immigration Litigation Alliance, which was involved in settlement talks over financial compensation.

The talks are delicate for the administration, which

has been criticized for considering large payouts. President Joe Biden himself said, "That's not going to happen," when asked in November about the \$450,000 figure, and later clarified that he backed some compensation.

Last month, the Justice Department withdrew from talks over financial compensation after eight months but didn't rule out an agreement.

"While the parties have been unable to reach a global settlement agreement at this time, we remain committed to engaging with the plaintiffs and to bringing justice to the victims of this abhorrent policy," the department said in a statement.

This month, attorneys for families renewed a request for the administration to turn over troves of records on how the policy was conceived and executed, signaling a potentially long court battle.

Talks have continued over non-monetary issues, including reunifying families in the United States and other services, such as mental health, attorneys said.

De Anda asked the administration to consider admitting family members who were threatened since the news reports. The administration has focused on parents and children who were separated but says it will consider additional families case by case.

The Honduran woman said her 56-year-old mother has received notes asking for \$5,000 a month. The mother cares for the woman's other children, an 11-year-old son and 7-year-old daughter. The woman wants all to join her in North Carolina.

Acquaintances have warned that the children may be unsafe in Honduras.

"I am scared," said the woman, who takes pills for anxiety and went to the emergency room with chest pains after the threats against her mother. "I don't know what can happen to my kids."



NATO-Russia Council at NATO headquarters in Brussels. OLIVIER MATTHYS/AP

No decision yet on Ukraine, but NATO, Russia eye talks

By Lorne Cook Associated Press

BRUSSELS — The United States and NATO rejected key Russian security demands for easing tensions over Ukraine but left open Wednesday the possibility of future talks with Moscow on arms control, missile deployments and ways to prevent military incidents between Russia and the West.

The decisions came at a meeting of the NATO-Russia Council, the first of its kind in over two years. That Russia's delegation did not walk out of the talks and remained open to the prospect of future discussions after having its main positions rebuffed were seen as positive notes in a week of high-level meetings aimed at staving off a feared Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Russian President Vladimir Putin wants NATO to withdraw its troops and military equipment from countries that border Russia, which include Ukraine but also NATO allies like Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Putin also asked for the 30-nation mili-

tary alliance to agree not to admit any more members.

Speaking after the meeting at NATO headquarters in Brussels, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman reaffirmed that some of Putin's security demands "are simply non-starters."

"We will not slam the door shut on NATO's open-door policy," she told reporters after almost four hours of talks. "We are not going to agree that NATO cannot expand any further."

The meeting was called as an estimated 100,000 combat-ready Russian troops, tanks and heavy military equipment are massed near Ukraine's eastern border. The buildup has caused deep concerns in Kyiv and the West that Moscow is preparing for an invasion.

Russia denies that it

has fresh plans to attack its neighbor and in turn accuses the West of threatening its security by positioning military personnel and equipment in Central and Eastern Europe.

While noting that "escalation does not create optimum conditions for diplomacy, to say the least,"

Sherman also expressed optimism following the Brussels meeting given that Moscow did not dismiss the idea of further talks.

NATO Secretary General

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, who chaired the meeting, said NATO nations and Russian envoys both "expressed the need to resume dialogue and to explore a schedule of future meetings."

Stoltenberg said NATO is keen to discuss ways to prevent dangerous military incidents or accidents involving Russia and the Western allies, reducing space and cyber threats, as well as setting limits on missile deployments and other arms control initiatives. He underlined that Ukraine has the right to decide its future security arrangements and that NATO would continue to leave its door open to new members.

"No one else has anything to say, and of course, Russia does not have a veto," he said.

In the U.S. on Wednesday, Senate Democrats released their proposal for legislation that would ratchet up sanctions on Russia if it sends troops into Ukraine.

Jan. 6 panel seeks interview from GOP leader McCarthy

By Farnoush Amiri and Eric Tucker Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House panel investigating the U.S. Capitol insurrection requested an interview and records from House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy on Wednesday, shifting their investigation to a top ally of former President Donald Trump in Congress

Congress.
Mississippi Rep. Bennie
Thompson, Democratic
chairman of the panel,
requested that McCarthy,
R-Calif., provide information to the nine-member panel regarding the
violence that took place last
January and his communications with former White
House Chief of Staff Mark
Meadows in the days prior

to the attack. "We also must learn about how the President's plans for January 6th came together, and all the other ways he attempted to alter the results of the election," Thompson said in the letter. "For example, in advance of January 6th, you reportedly explained to Mark Meadows and the former President that objections to the certification of the electoral votes on January 6th 'was doomed to fail."

The request seeks information about McCarthy's conversations with Trump "before, during and after" the riot, with lawmakers seeking a window into Trump's state of mind from an ally who has acknowledged repeated interactions with the then-president. The committee also wants to question McCarthy about communications with Trump and White House staff in the week after the violence, including a conversation with Trump that was reportedly heated.

The committee acknowledged the sensitive and unusual nature of its request as it proposed a meeting with McCarthy on either



Rep. Kevin McCarthy is the third House Republican contacted for an interview by the committee investigating the Jan. 6 riot. EVELYN HOCKSTEIN/GETTY POOL PHOTO

Feb. 3 or 4. "The Select Committee has tremendous respect for the prerogatives of Congress and the privacy of its Members," Thompson wrote. "At the same time, we have a solemn responsibility to investigate fully the facts and circumstances of these events.

A request for comment from McCarthy's office was not immediately returned.

McCarthy attracted the committee's attention through his public characterizations after the riot of his private discussions with Trump. Thompson's letter cites multiple statements and interviews in which McCarthy described his interactions with the president, including a CBS interview in which McCarthy said: "I was very clear with the President when I called him. This has to stop and he has to go to the American public and tell them to

stop this."

One of his Republican colleagues, Washington Rep. Jaime Herrera Butler, has said McCarthy told her that Trump told him, "Well, Kevin, I guess these people are more upset about the election than you are."

The Republican leader is the third member of Congress the committee has reached out to for voluntary information. In the

past few weeks, GOP Reps. Jim Jordan and Scott Perry were also contacted by the panel but have denied the requests to sit down with lawmakers or provide documents

The panel, comprised of seven Democrats and two Republicans, has already interviewed more than 300 people and issued subpoenas to more than 40 as it seeks to create a comprehensive record of the Jan. 6 attack and the events leading up to it.

The committee says the extraordinary trove of material it has collected — 35,000 pages of records so far, including texts, emails and phone records from people close to Trump — is fleshing out critical details of the worst attack on the Capitol in two centuries, which played out on live television.

Thompson said in an interview last month that about 90% of the witnesses subpoenaed by the committee have cooperated despite the defiance of high-profile Trump allies such as Meadows and Steve Bannon. Lawmakers said they have been effective at gathering information from other sources in part because they share a unity of purpose rarely seen in a congressional investigation.

Poll: Economic fears now top virus

Pandemic slipping in list of concerns for many in the US

By Will Weissert and Hannah Fingerhut Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Heading into a critical midterm election year, the top political concerns of Americans are shifting in ways that suggest Democrats face considerable challenges to maintaining their control of Congress.

A poll from Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds that management of the coronavirus pandemic, once an issue that strongly favored President Joe Biden and his fellow Democrats. is beginning to recede in the minds of Americans. COVID-19 is increasingly overshadowed by concerns about the economy and personal finances — particularly inflation — which are topics that could lift Republicans

Just 37% of Americans name the virus as one of their top five priorities for the government to work on in 2022, compared with 53% who said it was a leading priority at the same time a year ago.

The economy outpaced the pandemic in the openended question, with 68% of respondents mentioning it in some way as a top 2022 concern. A similar percentage said the same last year, but mentions of inflation are much higher now: 14% this year, compared with less than 1% last year.

Consumer prices jumped 7% for the 12 months ending in December, the most since 1982, the Labor Department reported Wednesday.

Meanwhile, roughly twice as many Americans now mention their household finances, namely, the cost of living, as a governmental priority, 24% versus 12% last year.



Americans are worried about prices and supply chain disruptions. Above, trucks line up to enter a shipping terminal Nov. 10 in Oakland, Calif. NOAH BERGER/AP

The poll was conducted in early December, when worries about the virus were rising as omicron took hold in the country, but before it sparked record caseloads, overwhelmed testing sites and hospitals, and upended holiday travel.

Still, in recent follow-up interviews with participants, many said those developments didn't shake their views.

"If we say anything along the lines of, 'Let's wait until the pandemic dies down,' well, this son of a gun virus has unlimited ability to mutate," said Mary Small, a 65-year-old pharmaceutical research contractor in Downingtown, Pennsylvania, who hopes efforts to promote gun safety will take center stage in November's elections, including her state's race for an open Senate seat. "We might never be done with this."

That sentiment reflects the challenge for Democrats at the onset of the election year. The party won the White House and control of Congress in 2020 with pledges to manage the pandemic more competently than the Trump administration.

After initially earning high marks — roughly 70% approved of Biden's handling of the pandemic from late February through mid-July - the virus's persistence has undermined the new president's message.

Administration officials acknowledge that the public is growing increasingly weary of COVID-19.

"Pandemic fatigue is real, and all of us feel it at some point," Surgeon General

Vivek Murthy said. "As a doctor, I've certainly seen it with my patients over the years. When you get tired and beaten down by a health problem — whether it's a personal health problem or a broader public health challenge — it can lead to disengagement."

The White House says COVID-19's waning as a preeminent concern actually underscores its success rolling out preventative measures, including vaccines. It argues that economic jitters now exacerbated by the pandemic eventually will ease.

Still, with Democrats likely struggling to campaign on the idea that they've now defeated the virus, the other issues gaining attention among voters pose more immediate political headaches.

Judy Kunzman doesn't blame Biden for the ongoing pandemic, calling it "just one of those events that are impossible to predict and almost as impossible to fix." But she's worried about continued supply chain disruptions, which affect "a lot of the other issues that we're having: The rising food prices. The fact that I

"Everything has chips and the chips aren't there," said Kunzman, 75, of Middletown, Pennsylvania, referring to a pandemic-fueled, global shortage of microchips many electronics depend on. She's waited months for the car she'd like to become available and noted that her sister faced difficulties finding a new cellphone.

can't buy my new car."

Many respondents in the survey said they're not suggesting the country ignore the pandemic.

But compared with last year, higher percentages of people called out other issues, including immigration among Republicans and gun control among Democrats, as pressing in 2022. Some said they were encouraged by early indications that the latest outbreak, while spreading fast, could have milder effects for many.

"I'm hopeful with omicron," said Samantha Flowers, a 33-year-old community college teacher in Columbia, Missouri, which has its own open Senate seat on November's ballot. "Even though more people are getting it, the sickness hasn't been as harsh for most people. Since we're all going to end up sick anyway, let it be one that we can recover from better."

Volunteers step up to save ailing owners' pets

By Leanne Italie Associated Press

NEW YORK — Who will

take your pet when you die? The question often doesn't have an easy answer, especially for ill or older people headed to residential nursing care or assisted

During the pandemic, specialized rescue, advocacy and adoption services run by volunteers are trying to fill the void, one pet at a

Leaders in the small movement said the past couple of years have opened

the eyes of many. "The thing about COVID is a lot of people are thinking, 'I can't be guaranteed to be around forever.' A lot more people are trying to make plans in advance, which is the best thing to do because unfortunately, a lot of people wait until they're in hospice or there's a desperate situation," said Amy Shever, founder and director of 2nd Chance 4 Pets in suburban Sacramento, California.

The number of pets surrendered to shelters due to caretaker health or death is up from 7.3% in 2009 to 10.2% during the pandemic, according to the Best Friends Network of thousands of public and private shelters, rescue groups and other animal welfare organizations in all 50 states.

The pets of seniors are often seniors themselves. languishing in shelters or the first to be euthanized after they're declared unadoptable, Shever said. They're routinely given up by relatives who can't take in a dog or cat. The life spans of other pets, such as parrots, are far longer, which sometimes scares off loved ones.

Shever's focus is educating veterinarians and shelters on how they can get involved.

Her organization also tries to help pet owners in need of direction.

She urges owners to identify a committed caregiver, provide written instructions for a pet's routine and put a financial plan in place. Her group has distributed thousands of emergency-card door hangers to pet food banks and animal welfare organizations so owners can make their wishes known.

Another organization. Pet Peace of Mind, works directly with about 250 hospices around the country to provide and train volunteers who care for pets of the seriously and terminally ill, said Dianne McGill, the president and founder in Salem, Oregon. Most of the hospices are providing home services. where pets are often giving comfort and support.

"These specialty volunteers bring pet care knowledge with them so they can do whatever is needed to help," she said. "So they're walking, feeding, playing, cleaning up or helping to arrange a plan for rehom-

While providing pet care or adoption services often isn't top of mind for social workers or nurses, it's a huge emotional driving force for patients and loved ones living far away, McGill said.

"Care workers hear about the issues from family members," she said. "They say, my mom is really, really upset about what's going to happen to her pet. I live out of state. I can't help her. How do we get some pet care in place while she's navigating her end-oflife journey or when she passes?"

"I've got a million stories about patients who literally hung on until they heard that their pet had received a new home." McGill said.

Enter angels-on-earth

like 79-year-old Kathy Reis-

She adopted a 12-year-old Chihuahua named Jackson with the help of Tyson's Place Animal Rescue in Holland, Michigan.

The nonprofit helps people with terminal illnesses find new homes for their pets. Reister, who has been diagnosed with congestive heart failure, had recently lost her own dog and was having a hard time at home alone when she took in Jackson last August.

"I've never been without a dog since about 1965," said the widow. "His previous

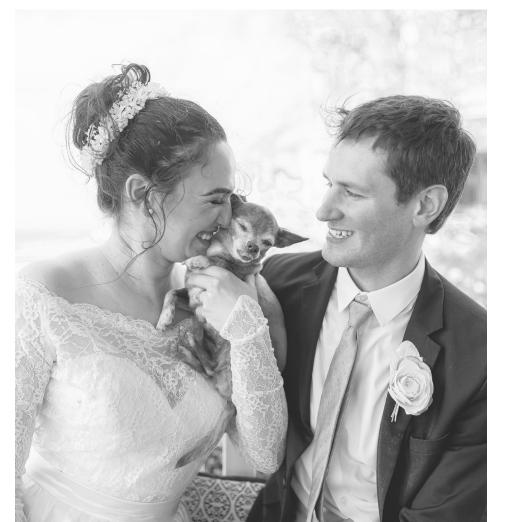
owner had passed away." Soon after, Jackson was also diagnosed with congestive heart failure, and Tyson's Place stepped in with a grant to help Reister cover his medical bills. She promised to return him to the agency for rehoming should her health take a

turn for the worse. "Having him has really helped me want to continue to live and keep fighting," said Reister, of Grandville,

Michigan. "I started walking one block down and one block back home with him. Now we walk at least 20, 25 minutes a day. He needs to walk, and I need to walk. He's made such a big difference in my life."

Caitlin Koska, 31, and Michael White, 34, in Ypsilanti, Michigan, included 14-year-old Luna in their May 1 wedding after Koska adopted her through Tyson's Place around Thanksgiving 2020. Luna, also a Chihuahua, was their ring bearer.

"Her owner had gone into a nursing home and could no longer take care of her," Koska said. "She has a lot of dental issues, cataracts and very poor hearing. She's just the sweetest dog. Everybody who knows her loves her.'



Caitlin Koska, left, and Michael White appear with their 14-year-old rescue dog, Luna, at their wedding in 2021 in St. Joseph, Mich. The couple adopted the Chihuahua through Tyson's Place Animal Rescue after her owner died. CAT CARTY BUSWELL VIA AP

Jill Bannik-Brecht founded Tyson's Place about six years ago.

It services the entire state of Michigan, working directly with a pet owner before rehoming becomes an urgent matter, or with family members after a death, using a small network of foster homes.

For Koska, Tyson's Place took care of extensive dental work for Luna before she was adopted.

"I used to work for a high-kill animal shelter, and I knew what happened to the old dogs when they came in. I remember one dog who animal control literally picked up from the side of his dead owner's body, and he didn't even have an opportunity to be adopted. He was put to sleep because we didn't have space," Bannik-Brecht

Now, hospices and social workers refer patients to Tyson's Place. Bannik-Brecht is struggling to expand her foster reach.

Bannik-Brecht knows of just a few other rescues like hers. One, in Canada, also needs help. Angela Rafuse, 27, in Hali-

fax, Nova Scotia, founded My Grandfather's Cat on May 18, her grandfather's birthday.

He died in 2019 and left behind his grumpy 14-yearold cat. Mackenzie.

"She was my grandmother's best friend and when she passed away, my grandfather took care of her for the next year before he passed away," Rafuse said. Rafuse promised her grandfather she would take Mackenzie. She began posting TikTok videos of their adventures. One video, of Mackenzie scratching Rafuse's face as she held her up to the camera, has been viewed nearly a million times.

"Then so many people started sharing stories with us about how their grandparents' cats ended up in shelters and how their grandparents worry about what will happen to their cats or their dogs because there's nowhere to take them." Rafuse said.

After she launched, emails asking for help and offering donations rolled in, but she didn't have enough foster homes to meet demand. She's working to expand. One of Rafuse's goals is to help keep a pet at home until the final moment.

As for Mackenzie, she's living her best life, hiking and kayaking with Rafuse.

"She's still grumpy," Rafuse said.

BUSINESS

Media outlets grappling with virus 'data disaster'

News organizations rethink reporting of case counts during omicron wave

By David Bauder

Associated Press

NEW YORK — For two years, coronavirus case counts and hospitalizations have been widely used barometers of the pandemic's march across the world.

But the omicron wave is making a mess of the usual statistics, forcing news organizations to rethink the reporting of such

"It's just a data disaster," said Katherine Wu, a staff writer who covers COVID-19 for The Atlantic magazine.

The number of case counts soared over the holidays, an expected development given the emergence of a variant more transmissible than its predecessors.

Yet these counts only reflect what is reported by health authorities. They do not include most people who test themselves at home, or are infected without even knowing about it. Holidays and weekends also lead to lags in reported cases.

If you could add all those numbers up and you can't — case counts would likely be substantially higher.

For that reason, The Associated Press has recently told its editors and reporters to avoid emphasizing case counts in stories about the disease. That means, for example, no more stories focused solely on a particular country or state setting a one-day record for number of cases, because that claim has become unreliable.

Throughout the media, there has been more caution in use of official case counts.

An NBC News story Monday about the skyrocketing number of COVID-19 cases relied on a one-week average of case counts. A Tuesday story simply referred to a "tidal wave" of cases.

During its coverage of a Senate hearing with health experts Tuesday, the case counts CNN flashed onscreen were two-week averages. MSNBC used a variety of measurements, including a listing of the five states with highest reported numbers over the past three days.

On its website's "Guide to the Pandemic," The Washington Post used a seven-day average of cases and compared that number to last Tuesday's, showing a 56% increase. The New York Times used a daily count in an online chart, yet also included a two-week trend in both cases and deaths.

Hospitalization and death rates are considered by some to be a more reliable picture of COVID-19's current impact on society. Yet even the usefulness of those numbers has been called into question in recent days. In many cases, hospitalizations are incidental: There are people being admitted for other reasons and are surprised to find they test positive for COVID-19, said Tanya Lewis, senior editor for health and medicine at Scientific Amer-

Despite the imperfections, case counts should not be ignored, said Gary Schwitzer, a University of Minnesota School of Public Health instructor and publisher of Health-NewsReview.org, which monitors health coverage in the media.

The numbers illustrate trends, giving a picture of which areas of the country are being hit particularly hard or where the surge may have peaked, he said.



American companies are still importing teak, a valuable and versatile hardwood, from Myanmar despite sanctions the U.S. imposed after the military seized power last Feb. 1, a trade data report says. Above, a worker marks logs in Wuntho, Myanmar. **GEMUNU AMARASINGHE/AP 2016**

Firms keep bringing in teak

US importers still receiving wood from Myanmar despite coup sanctions, report says

By Elaine Kurtenbach Associated Press

BANGKOK - American companies are still importing teak from Myanmar despite sanctions imposed after the military seized power last year, a recently released report based on trade data said.

Teak is one of the most valuable hardwoods, used in home flooring, doors, window frames and furniture. Myanmar is the biggest producer of the wood, even though its natural forests are dwindling.

American importers were still receiving shipments of teak as recently as December even though sanctions were put in place in April, data from the Panjiva global trade database show. Similar trends have been reported from Europe.

The human rights group Justice for Myanmar is urging the U.S. and other governments to crack down on the teak trade in line with sanctions against the country's military leadership.

Those U.S. Treasury sanctions,

announced last April, ban dealings with Myanmar Timber Enterprise, a stateowned company under the country's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation. It alone oversees exports of timber and sells to private companies through auctions.

The sanctions ban all transactions with the company or people connected with it by U.S. people and companies. It also imposed sanctions on the military-appointed minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

The European Union imposed similar sanctions in June. It also bans dealings with Myanmar's Forest Products Joint Venture

Yet, sales and shipments of teak and other valuable hardwoods to the U.S. have continued. The timber arrived in 82 different shipments from last Feb. 1 to Nov. 30, mainly teak boards and other wood items used in shipbuilding, outdoor decking, construction and furniture.

By buying through intermediaries, the importers are skirting the sanctions, the report contends.

"Considering that sanctions aim to block trade with MTE, and the timber exported from Myanmar is originally auctioned by

MTE," the military still receives funds from the trade "no matter who officially exports the timber," the report said.

It urged the U.S. government to enforce the sanctions and to investigate possible

breaches of the restrictions. It is not clear exactly where the teak ends up, since it is imported by suppliers of timber for construction and other manu-

Myanmar's military, headed by Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, deposed the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy last Feb. 1. Suu Kyi was arrested and charged with about a dozen crimes. On Monday, the 76-year-old Nobel Peace Prize laureate was sentenced to four more years in prison, on top of the two-year sentence she was ordered to serve

from earlier cases. The military takeover has drawn nonviolent nationwide demonstrations, which security forces have quashed with deadly force, killing more than 1,400 civilians, according to a list compiled by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners.

Timber is one of resource-rich Myanmar's most valuable industries, bringing in millions of dollars a year in taxes and export

Report: IRS to start tax season with big backlog

By Tara Siegel Bernard The New York Times

The IRS will kick off the approaching tax season with a backlog of at least 10 million unprocessed returns from last year, according to a new report by the National Taxpayer Advocate.

The pile of returns remaining are from the "most challenging year taxpayers and tax professionals have ever experienced," the advocate, Erin Collins, wrote in her report.

One reason for the backlog: Stimulus payments to the people from the government during the pandemic have been largely routed through the IRS, which Collins said was already short-staffed.

The vast majority of taxpayers — 77% received refunds in 2021, but tens of millions of them experienced delays. Collins called last year's situation "horrendous" from the standpoint of taxpayers. Although the backlog is not too different from last season's, it is far higher than the backlog the IRS typically faced before the pandemic began.

"Paper is the IRS' kryptonite, and the agency is still buried in it," Collins said in a statement about her 2021 annual report, which was sent to Congress on Wednesday. The Office of the Taxpayer Advocate, which Collins leads, is an independent entity within the IRS.

The IRS warned taxpayers Monday that staffing shortages and backlogs would translate into another frustrating filing season, which begins Jan. 24 and runs through April 18 (in most states).

Collins reiterated the agency's recommendation that Congress provide it with enough money to do its job. Since 2010, the IRS' staffing is down 17%; and its workload over the same period, measured by the number of individual returns, is up by 19% to 169 million in 2021, according to the report.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

UK court: 'VIP lane' unlawful

LONDON — Britain's High Court ruled Wednesday that the government acted unlawfully when it used a "VIP lane" to award millions of dollars' worth of contracts to suppliers of personal protective equipment during the first wave of the coronavirus pandemic in 2020.

Two groups brought the legal action against the Department of Health and Social Care, alleging its use of the "High Priority Lane," reserved for referrals from lawmakers and senior officials, gave unfair advantage to some suppliers "because of who they knew, not what they could deliver."

The contracts included one worth over \$464 million to pest control firm PestFix and another worth some \$344 million to the hedge fund Ayanda Capital.

Man freed after cockpit incident

A passenger arrested in Honduras for damaging the cockpit of an American Airlines jet during boarding was released by authorities hours later.

The flight, which was scheduled to depart Tuesday afternoon for Miami, was delayed, arriving early Wednesday about eight hours

The passenger was freed because the airline didn't press charges, a Honduran official said. The airline said Wednesday it was not dropping the matter and would pursue

The cockpit door was open before the breach, American Airlines said. The passenger leaned out of a cockpit window before crew members and local police intervened and he was apprehended, the airline said.

Agency: Russia to blame for natural gas crisis

By David McHugh **Associated Press**

FRANKFURT, Germany — The head of the International Energy Agency blamed Russia for worsening Europe's natural gas crisis, saying Wednesday that high prices and low storage levels largely stem from the behavior of state-owned gas supplier

Gazprom. Russia could send up to a third more gas through existing pipelines, said Fatih Birol, executive director of the Paris-based 30-member organization that provides policy recommendations on affordable and sustainable energy. That would amount to some 10% of European daily consumption about what industry officials say would

be needed to avoid a severe shortage in case of colder-than-expected weather.

"In terms of European gas ... we believe there are strong elements of the tightness in European gas markets due to Russia's behavior," Birol told reporters.

"Contrary to other pipeline supporters, such as Norway, Algeria and Azerbaijan, which increase their supplies to Europe, Gazprom reduced its exports to Europe by 25%" in the fourth quarter compared with a year ago "despite high market prices," he

Russian President Vladimir Putin has underscored that Gazprom has met its obligations under long-term contracts and blamed high spot gas prices on European decisions to move toward volatile short-term market pricing. He has also asserted that German gas customers have been reselling Russian gas to Poland and Ukraine.

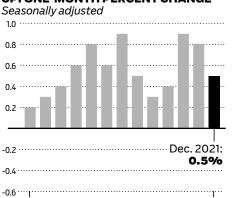
When pressed by reporters on the call, Birol resisted saying that Russia was using gas to put political pressure on western Europe. Russia has moved thousands of troops near its border with Ukraine and made demands that Ukraine be barred from membership in the NATO alliance.

It also wants German and European Union regulators to approve its newly built Nord Stream 2 pipeline that would bypass other countries and start bringing natural gas directly to Europe, but it faces opposition from Ukraine, Poland and the United

Consumer Price Index

In December, the consumer price index

increased 0.5 percent. **CPI ONE-MONTH PERCENT CHANGE**



TNS

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

BUSINESS



A judge in the U.S. has ruled against a consortium of Swiss and French cheesemakers. Above, a worker with wheels of Gruyere cheese in Switzerland. FABRICE COFFRINI/GETTY-AFP 2011

Cheesemakers' arguments melt away after legal ruling

By Matthew Barakat Associated Press

FALLS CHURCH, Va. Gruyere cheese does not have to come from the Gruyere region of Europe to be sold under the gruyere name, a federal judge has ruled.

A consortium of Swiss and French cheesemakers from the region around the town of Gruyeres, Switzerland, sued in U.S. District Court in Virginia after the federal Trademark Trials and Appeals Board denied an application for trademark protections.

The consortium said gruyere - often a mild. smooth-melting cheese that's a favorite for fondues has been made to exacting standards in the region since the early 12th century and cheese made outside the region can't truly be called gruyere, similar to the argument that champagne can be only be applied to sparking wines from the Champagne region of

But the U.S. Dairy Export Council and other groups opposed the trademark

protection. They said American consumers understand the gruyere name to be generic, applying to cheeses of a certain style regardless of their place of origin.

In a decision made public last week, U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis ruled against the Swiss consortium, finding that American consumers do not associate the gruyere name with cheese made specifically from that region. While similar trademark protections have been granted to Roquefort cheese and Cognac brandy, Ellis said the same case can't be made for gruyere.

"It is clear from the record that the term GRUYERE may have in the past referred exclusively to cheese from Switzerland and France," Ellis wrote. "However, decades of importation, production, and sale of cheese labeled GRUYERE produced outside the Gruyere region of Switzerland and France have eroded the meaning of that term and rendered it generic."

Among other things, he cited the fact that the Food and Drug Administration

regulates use of the gruvere name and that none of the requirements specify its place of origin.

The gruyere consortium is appealing Ellis' ruling.

Shawna Morris, a senior vice president for trade policy with the U.S. Dairy Export Council, said the legal battle over gruyere is part of an increased effort in Europe to seek international trade protection for a variety of products, including gorgonzola, asiago and feta cheeses and bologna lunch meats.

"We're thrilled that the judge made a great call here, in our view," she said.

The European consortium did not return an email seeking comment. In court papers, its lawyers argued that Swiss and French gruyere is "painstakingly made from local, natural ingredients using traditional methods that assure the connection between the geographic region and the quality and characteristics of the final product."

They said allowing others to use the gruyere name would confuse American consumers.

Key report from world forum outlines new risks globe faces

By Kelvin Chan **Associated Press**

LONDON - Cyberthreats and the growing space race are emerging risks to the global economy, adding to existing challenges posed by climate change and the coronavirus pandemic, the World Economic Forum said in a report this week.

The Global Risks Report is usually released ahead of the annual elite winter gathering of CEOs and world leaders in the Swiss ski resort of Davos, but the event has been postponed for a second year in a row because of COVID-19. The World Economic Forum still plans some virtual sessions

Here's a rundown of the report, which is based on a survey of about 1,000 experts and leaders:

World outlook: As 2022 begins, the pandemic and its economic and societal impact still pose a "critical threat" to the world, the report said. Big differences between rich and poor nations' access to vaccines mean their economies are recovering at uneven rates, which could widen social divisions and heighten geopolitical tensions.

By 2024, the global economy is forecast to be 2.3% smaller than it would have been without the pandemic. But that masks the different rates of growth between developing nations, whose economies are forecast to be 5.5% smaller than before the pandemic, and rich countries, which are expected to expand 0.9%.

Digital Dangers: The pandemic forced a huge shift requiring many people to work or attend class from home and giving rise to an exploding number of online platforms and devices to aid a transformation that has dramatically increased secu-



The space race is an emerging risk to the global economy, the World Economic Forum said in a report. Above, pilot Wally Funk after flying on a craft owned by Jeff Bezos' space exploration company. TONY GUTIERREZ/AP 2021

rity risks, the report said.

"We're at the point now where cyberthreats are growing faster than our ability to effectively prevent and manage them," said Carolina Klint, a risk management leader at Marsh, whose parent company Marsh McLennan co-authored the report with Zurich Insurance Group and SK Group.

Cyberattacks are becoming more aggressive and widespread, as criminals use tougher tactics to go after more vulnerable targets, the report said. Malware and ransomware attacks have boomed, while the rise of cryptocurrencies makes it easy for online criminals to hide payments they have collected.

While those responding to the survey cited cybersecurity threats as a short- and medium-term risk, Klint said the report's authors were concerned that the issue wasn't ranked higher, suggesting it's a "blind spot" for companies and governments.

Space race: Falling costs for launch technology has led to a new space race between companies and governments. Last year, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos' space tourism venture Blue Origin and Virgin Galactic's

Richard Branson took off, while Elon Musk's Space X business made big gains in launching astronauts and satellites.

Meanwhile, several countries are beefing up their space programs as they chase geopolitical and military power or scientific and commercial gains, the report

But all these programs raise the risk of frictions in

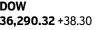
"Increased exploitation of these orbits carries the risk of congestion, an increase in debris and the possibility of collisions in a realm with few governance structures to mitigate new threats," the report said.

Climate crisis: The environment remains the biggest long-term worry.

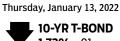
The report noted that different countries are taking different approaches, with some moving faster to adopt a zero-carbon model than others. Both approaches come with downsides. While moving slowly could radicalize more people who think the government isn't acting urgently, a faster shift away from carbon intense industries could spark economic turmoil and throw millions

MARKET RUNDOWN

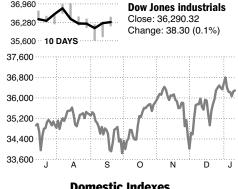




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Domestic Indexes														
		CLOSE		CHG.		ΥT	D							
DOW Indus.	3	6,290.32		+38.30		1	3%							
DOW Trans.	1	5,971.10		-19.76		-3.0	8%							
DOW Util.		955.22		+2.48		-2.6	1%							
NYSE Comp.	1	7,353.76		+59.22		+1.1	0%							
Nasdaq Comp	. 1	5,188.39		+34.94		-2.9	2%							
S&P 500		4,726.35		+13.28		8	4%							
S&P 400		2,798.79		-8.25		-1.5	2%							
Wilshire 5000		7,807.05		+56.25		-1.3	5%							
Russell 2000		2,176.06		-17.94		-3.0	8%							

Commodities														
FUELS CLOSE PREV. YTD														
Crude Oil (bbl)	82.64	81.22	+9.88%											
Natural Gas (mm btu)	4.86	4.25	+30.21%											
Unleaded Gas (gal)	2.39	2.36	+7.29%											
METALS	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD											
Gold (oz)	1,827.20	1,818.60	02%											
Silver (oz)	23.20	22.81	55%											
(Previous and change figures	reflect curren	t contract.)												

Forei	gn Excl	hange	Money Rates							
	ForEx in U.S. \$	U.S. \$ in ForEx		CLOSE	PREV. WK.					
Britain	1.3712	.7293	Prime rate	3.25	3.25					
Canada	.7999	1.2501	3-mo. T-Bill	0.12	0.09					
China	.1573	6.3584	6-mo. T-Bill	0.27	0.23					
Euro	1.1449	.8734	5-yr T-Note	1.59	1.43					
Japan	.008742	114.40	10-yr T-Note	1.73	1.70					
Mexico	.049125	20.3562	30-yr T-Bond	2.07	2.09					
1		Olahal	Mariliata							

	Global Markets														
	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	%YTD											
Frankfurt London Hong Kong Nikkei	16,010.32 7,561.35 24,402.17 28,765.66	+68.51 +116.10 +663.11 +543.18	+.43% +1.56% +2.79% +1.92%	+.79% +2.39% +4.29% 09%											

Stocks of Local Interest

			YTD				YTD
STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG	STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG
AMC Entertainment A (AM		07	-16.5	Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	72.73	+.07	+6.5
AT&T Inc (T)	26.45	+.11	+7.5	Lucid Group Inc (LCID)	45.43	04	+19.4
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	137.47	+.16	-4.5	MGM Resorts Intl (MGM)	44.80	15	2
American Airlines Gp (AAL	-	52	+3.0	Magellan Health Inc (MGLN) 94.99		
Amphenol Corp (APH)	82.88	+.27	-5.2	MetLife Inc (MET)	67.62	38	+8.2
Apple Inc (AAPL)	175.53	+.45	-1.1	Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	318.27	+3.29	-5.4
Avangrid Inc (AGR) Bank of America (BAC)	48.23 48.86	+.07 35	-3.3 +9.8	Novartis AG (NVS)	89.79	08	+2.7
Barnes Group (B)	46.80	35 36	+.5	Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	279.99	+1.82	-4.8
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	2436.10	-33.32	+1.5	Ocugen Inc (OCGN)	4.17	+.01	-8.4
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	64.82	66	+4.0	Opendoor Technol (OPEN)	12.64	+.75	-13.5
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	105.78	26	+2.5	Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	86.95	+.71	1
Carnival Corp (CCL)	22.31	+.33	+10.9	Palantir Technol (PLTR)	16.72	17	-8.2
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)		+.46	-2.3	Peoples Utd Fncl (PBCT)	20.71	+.16	+16.2
Charter Communic (CHTR)		+1.88	-5.8	Pfizer Inc (PFE)	56.65	04	-4.1
Cigna Corp (CI)	238.78	-1.36	+4.0	Pitney Bowes (PBI)	6.56	08	-1.1
Citigroup (C)	67.28	+.17	+11.4	Prudential Fncl (PRU)	115.65	+.26	+6.8
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	50.95	19	+1.2	Pub Svc Ent Gp (PEG)	66.04	+.19	-1.0
Coty Inc (COTY)	9.44	21	-10.1	Raytheon Technolog (RTX)	91.07	+.35	+5.8
DiDi Global Inc (DIDI)	4.96	+.06	4	Rogers Corp (ROG)	272.77	45	1
Disney (DIS)	157 . 80	09	+1.9	SS&C Technlogies (SSNC)	84.24	+.76	+2.8
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	123.10	-1.56	-3.4	SoFi Technologies (SOFI)	13.86	08	-12.3
electroCore Inc (ECOR)	.88	+.34	+50.9	Sthwstn Energy (SWN)	5.04	+.29	+8.2
Energy Transfer L.P. (ET)	9.63	+.30	+17.0	Stanley Black & Deck (SWK		+3.47	+2.3
Ethan Allen (ETD)	26.79	13	+1.9	Starwood Prop Trust (STWI	-	+.01	+4.7
Eversource Energy (ES)	87.49	+.86	-3.8	Sundial Growers Inc (SNDL)	-	01	+.3
Biofem Biosciences (EVFM		+.04 05	+12.8 -31.2	TAL Education Grp AD (TAL		+.27	-6.9
Exela Technologies (XELA) Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM)	71.14	05 21	+16.3	TDH Holdings Inc (PETZ)	.59	10	-84.8
Ford Motor (F)	24.47	+.12	+17.8	Terex Corp (TEX)	46.24	08	+5.2
Freeport McMoRan (FCX)	45.15	+2.16	+8.2	Tesla Inc (TSLA)	1106.22		+4.7
Fresh Vine Wine Inc (VINE)		+1.16	+36.9	Tilray Inc (TLRY)	7.15	23	+1.7
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	5.07	11	-2.5	Travelers Cos (TRV)	162.97	19	+4.2
Gen Dynamics (GD)	211.93	+.35	+1.7	United Rentals (URI)	331.95	-2.04	1
Gen Electric (GE)	102.24	+.45	+8.2	United Health Group (UNH)	473.72	+4.72	1 -5.7
Hartford Fn Sv (HIG)	72.32	08	+4.8	Virtus Invest (VRTS)	292.99	+1.39	-3. <i>1</i> -1.4
Honeywell Intl (HON)	218.25	+1.94	+4.7				
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	16.37	+.15	+2.8	Voya Financial (VOYA)	73.07	+.20	+10.2
Immix Biopharma Inc (IMN	MX) 6.43	+1.00	+80.6	Webster Financial (WBS)	63.17	-1.17	+13.1
Immuron Ltd (IMRN)	3.83	+1.21	+53.2	Wells Fargo & Co (WFC)	56.40	+.34	+17.5
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	25.75	+.73	+1.7	White Mtns Insur (WTM)	1049.56	+5.57	+3.5
Intel Corp (INTC)	55.74	17	+8.2	World Wrestling Ent (WWE)		42	+3.6
Kaman (KAMN)	43.47	+.04	+.7	XPO Logistics Inc (XPO)	70.59	09	-8.8
Keycorp (KEY)	26.40	03	+14.1	Xerox Holdings Corp (XRX)	23.62	20	+4.3
Kidpik Corp (PIK)	7.30	+1.25	+16.4	Zynga Inc (ZNGA)	9.15	+.30	+43.0



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Don't mourn expired child tax credit

By Allison Schrager

Bloomberg Opinion

The enhanced Child Tax Credit has expired and I, for one, will not mourn it. Neither should you.

Sure, it's been extremely popular — who doesn't like getting more money from the government? But it's not great policy. Taxpayers and recipients of the credit deserve better.

Here's a quick review: The enhanced tax credit was a successor to the \$2,000 version that was part of the 2017 tax reform. The credit was increased last year by the Joe Biden administration to \$3,600 annually for each child under 6 and \$3,000 for older children, with half of that paid monthly and the rest claimed on your tax return. Every family got the same amount up to an income limit. The pandemic-inspired enhancement was set to expire at the end of 2021, when the credit reverted to \$2,000. The president's Build Back Better plan would extend the increase, but that proposal is in limbo as the bill remains blocked by opponents in Congress.

Since the expiration of the enhanced credit means families will lose money relative to last year, some economists and pundits are arguing that the program should be preserved, since it was a great success in achieving its goal of reducing child poverty. Don't believe the hype.

The enhanced CTC may have had intentions, but it's not entirely clear what they

were. Based on the timing and communication from the White House it aimed to reduce child poverty and provide relief to families during the pandemic. The pandemic justification never made much sense. Between the economic impact payments, enhanced unemployment benefits, eviction moratorium and pause in student loan payments, most families weren't financially much worse off than they were before the pandemic. So presumably the enhanced CTC was supposed to meet the larger, pre-existing goal of reducing child poverty while offering relief to cash-strapped middle-class families. And who can argue with that?

The case for a permanently larger middle-class entitlement isn't as strong. Maybe the U.S. should have a big entitlement state for working middle- and upper-middle-class families. But this is not a cheap program, and it represents a big change in American welfare.

The enhanced CTC costs more than \$100 billion a year, and \$1.6 trillion over the next 10 years if made permanent more than is spent on food stamps, income support for low earners and housing assistance. Essentially, the larger credit means choosing either less money for other programs or European-sized taxes. Maybe that's our future, but there are trade-offs in terms of the expense and a less efficient

The case for trying to reduce child poverty is easier to make. Before the

pandemic about 14% of American children lived in poverty, compared to 12.8% of children in other OECD countries. That's shameful. And as proponents of the new CTC note, it did reduce poverty. Estimates put the reduction of child poverty at about 34%, and it may have reduced food insufficiency by 27%. This isn't surprising; if you send lots of families checks they'll have more money.

But the reduction in poverty doesn't necessarily mean this is a good policy. First, the pandemic is still raging. We really don't know how the enhanced CTC works in normal times and in a normal labor market. For example, many poor children didn't get regular schooling, which is a source of food from the free lunch program. And perhaps child poverty could be reduced in ways that cost the taxpayer less money.

By these standards the enhanced CTC falls short. By one estimate only 57% of households earning less than \$25,000 even got the credit because it is administered by the IRS and very low earners or no earners don't always file. The enhanced CTC aims to reduce poverty, but compared to other government programs a smaller fraction of the money goes to low-income people. This is because of the substantial benefits paid to middle and upper middle-class

It's sometimes argued that it's necessary to offer the credit to higher earners because if you take benefits away as people earn more it discourages advancement.

But the current version of the CTC also has harmful distortions. The 2017 CTC created incentives to work by increasing the size of the credit as income rose (up to \$30,000 in earnings). Taking away this feature and offering a flat credit (within a higher income limit) reduces the return-to-work benefit (the money you'd get from working compared to not working).

For some, the return to working has fallen substantially. Economists estimate that the reduction is on par with eliminating the Earned Income Tax Credit, a federal subsidy that increases the return to work because an income is required for eligibility. If we believe the EITC has been successful at getting people to work (most economists do), it stands to reason the enhanced CTC must discourage it. The economists estimate that as the economy returns to normal, the reduction in work could undo the improvement to deep poverty that the credit provided during the pandemic.

The enhanced CTC may have good intentions, but creating a large middleclass entitlement state and undermining work incentives is not good policy.

Policy needs to be judged on its execution, not just on its intent. Just because a policy has good intentions, that doesn't mean it's a good policy. How well it solves the problem is what matters most.

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Treat Putin like the bully that he is



Jonah Goldberg

On Monday, Russian president-for-life Vladimir Putin explained that the "peacekeeper" paratroopers he sent to Kazakhstan to help quash civil unrest were part of his larger policy of preventing "color revolutions" in former Soviet-bloc countries.

Putin made his remarks at a meeting of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, which the New York Times described as "a body equivalent to NATO that includes six countries from the former Soviet Union.

I bring this up not to indulge in media criticism but to point out how easy it is to fall for Russian propaganda and the logic of false equivalence when discussing relations with Russia and authoritarian regimes generally. Yes, CSTO is, like NATO, a military alliance, but the similarities end there. Commitment to democratic principles is a membership requirement for NATO. None of CSTO's members — Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan — are democracies. Armenia comes closest; Freedom House designates it a "semi-consolidated authoritarian regime" with a "Democracy Score" of 33 out of 100. The rest are "consolidated authoritarian regimes.'

In short, CSTO is a dictators' club in which authoritarians agree to protect each another's grip on power, including from internal threats by their own people. NATO doesn't send troops into member countries to prop up failed autocrats.

CSTO is also a tool for Putin to rebuild the lost empire of the Soviet Union.

Putin uses another tool toward the same end: military force, or the threat of it. That's what he's doing to Ukraine. Putin has deployed about 100,000 troops on the Ukrainian border in preparation for what



Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman met Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov in Geneva. DENIS BALIBOUSE/POOL VIA AP

could be yet another invasion of Russia's neighbor. The U.S. and Russia are in Geneva this week to figure out a diplomatic exit from the crisis Putin has created.

The mere fact that the U.S. is meeting with Putin to discuss a diplomatic solution is a concession. He loves superpower summits like this because they buttress his government's propaganda about Russia's

The fact that Ukraine itself has largely been sidelined in these talks is also a gift to Putin, because it bolsters his claim that a great power like Russia needn't consult with — never mind recognize the sovereignty of — the little countries it wants to bully.

None of this is to say that the U.S. shouldn't try to talk Putin out of invading Ukraine. But it does inform what the U.S. should sav.

Putin's case for invading Ukraine is based on his nostalgia for the Soviet Union and Russian imperialism generally. Ukraine once belonged to Russia, and if Russia can't have it back — still an "if" in Putin's mind — it should at least be able to dictate Ukraine's destiny and alliances.

Putin subscribes to the myth promoted by Russian state propaganda that America and the West promised not to expand NATO during the negotiations over German reunification and other agreements in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union. No such assurances were made, but the United States, the United Kingdom and Russia did agree to the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances. In 1994, in exchange for Ukraine voluntarily giving up Soviet nuclear weapons on its soil — then the third-largest arsenal in the world — signatories agreed to defend Ukraine's territorial integrity and security. Putin declared that agreement null and void when Ukrainians elected a government that wasn't a vassal to Putin.

Putin's appetite is bigger than just Ukraine. According to draft treaties released by Russia, Putin wants a sphere of influence where smaller nations along its "near abroad" would have to defer to Russia's priorities. They would be barred from ever joining NATO, and countries that joined NATO after 1997 would be

barred from hosting or training with NATO troops or military assets.

These demands are almost surely a nonstarter, and rightly so. Giving into them would undermine NATO, reward military blackmail and leave our Eastern European allies vulnerable to a regime that has already established it is willing to invade neighbors for its own aggrandizement most recently in the 2014 military seizure of Crimea from Ukraine.

But Putin is a master of asking for the whole store so he can settle for a shopping cart full of free goodies. And it sounds like the White House is considering concessions, including delaying military assistance to Ukraine.

The political temptation to appease Putin — just a little — is understandable. The last thing Biden needs is yet another international crisis, never mind a war. But one thing is certain: Any concessions to Putin will be little more than down payments on more down the road.

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Democrats may not be organized, but they are unionized

By Tyler Cowen Bloomberg Opinion

Last week's vote by employees of the Democratic National Committee to join a union raises at least two questions. First: You mean they weren't in one already? Second, and more seriously: Should left-leaning organizations encourage their employees to unionize?

DNC staff employees will now become part of SEIU Local 500, which already represents workers in Maryland and Washington. Meanwhile, many other Democratic-leaning fundraising and social media firms are also unionizing.

In one sense, this trend is unsurprising. The Democratic Party platform states: "Democrats will make it easier for workers, public and private, to exercise their right to organize and join unions." The party, which relies on unions for a lot of financial support, is merely practicing what it

One effect of social media is that they have made some kinds of hypocrisy harder to pull off. If the DNC and affiliated firms were to stay non-unionized, the tweets and Facebook posts reminding the world of that would never stop. What could they

say in response? "Unions for thee but not for me" is not a message that will boost

support and influence. Liberal media outlets face similar issues. Vox Media unionized in 2019, in the face of pressure from their workers and readers. The National Labor Relations Board has criticized The New York Times for discouraging its employees from supporting a union covering some Times technology workers, although the paper disputes their account. The dilemma is also present at universities, which especially at the top level tend to be left-leaning. There is a graduate student unionization struggle going on at Columbia University, and the likely result will be a 30% pay hike for graduate student teachers.

In economics, there are good rationalizations for the efficiency of (some) unions. When U.S. automakers had oligopoly power in the postwar environment, and had invested heavily in fixed assets such as factories, unions may have been an efficient way to force the companies to share some of their profits with workers. That said, those same unions later proved a liability when Japanese and other foreign competition emerged. Unions may also be an efficient means of bargaining over

collective worker goods, such as greater perks in return for lesser pay.

But a lot of these business conditions don't apply in current circumstances, so the union rationalizations don't either. And there are cases in which unions are imposed on relatively thinly capitalized institutions. The new union for the Politics & Prose bookstore in Washington, D.C., for instance, probably doesn't have a lot of excess profit it can capture. Sometimes a union can win a one-time pay increase but no permanent boost to longer-term compensation.

Columbia University, with its sizable endowment, is a relatively well-capitalized entity. Still, it's appropriate to ask what problem is solved by a graduate student union. The main difficulty for these students seems to be a lack of jobs when they graduate, and a pay hike might crowd the field further, with unwelcome consequences for the job market. And in the long run, the university could simply cut back on its initial financial aid offerings. The point is, it is hard for graduate student unions to bargain effectively across many of the most relevant dimensions of their student and work experience.

In the meantime, all of these unions are

introducing additional veto points into the workplace, sometimes slowing response times. If you run the business and plan to make a big change in how it operates, you might feel — either contractually or tactically — that you need to check with the union first. And if you are a Democrat and a pragmatist, you might prefer a more effective but less unionized DNC, which after all is a major promoter of unionization for the U.S. economy as a whole.

What would a less hypocritical version of a Republican organization look like? Should everyone be given equity shares, or should there be bonuses for star performers? Whatever the answer may be, it probably won't be debated much in public, as Republicans tend to be more circumspect about such matters. That's a danger for Republicans, who may find it harder to live up to their principles if no one is calling them to account.

The Democrats, in contrast, tend to stage noisy debates — most of which, sooner or later, seem to settle in the same direction. That's not a healthy norm of discourse,

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REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE OF HOP RIVER ROAD BRIDGE OVER HOP RIVER

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A letter of interest, together with general information on the firm and proposed sub consultants,

I GSA Form 330 evperience the firm's brochure, current Federal GSA Form 330, experience of the firms, and a resume of key personnel should be addressed to Todd M. Penney, PE. Town Engineer, 1712 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238. Additionally, all interested firms must submit a detailed statement including the organizational structure under which the firm proposes to conduct business. Proposed sub consultants should be clearly identified. The relationship to any "parent" firm or subsidiary firm, with any of the parties concerned, must be clearly defined. Interested firms shall provide htm, with any or the policies is it is a consistency of the policy of th

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Experience:
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1. Not less than eight (8) years employment in civil, highway or a relevant engineering field of which three (3) years must have been in a supervisory capacity of highway, bridge, facilities, or rail construction activities, as required; at least four (4) years of which shall have been in field inspection activities.

field inspection activities.

2. Have considerable knowledge of highway, bridge, facilities, or rail construction practices and procedures as required; ability to prepare correspondence, reports, and recommendations concerning construction issues; demonstrated ability to deal effectively with others; the ability to supervise; and the ability to establish and maintain project records.

Certifications: NICET Level III Certification in Transportation/Highway Construction is required, except for those persons possessing a current Professional Engineer's License registered in the State of Connecticut (PE).

Survey Party Chief:

Survey Party Chief:
Experience:
1. Not less than four (4) years of construction survey experience of which at least three (3) years shall have been as an instrument person or survey party chief.
2. Have considerable knowledge of principles and methods of land surveying; knowledge of principles and practices of highway engineering; the ability to keep and reduce field notes; the ability to determine construction quantities and amounts on completed projects; the ability to supervise the layout of limits of work and grades, ability to check contractor's survey layout for accuracy; the ability to layout foundations, rail track layouts, abutments, culverts and pipe lines; the ability to re-establish boundary lines and stake-taking lines; and the ability to prepare as-built plans and other related duties as required.
Licensing: Land Surveyor License in the State of Connecticut or shall be working under the direct supervision of a member of the Consulting Engineer's staff.

Questions about this request for qualifications are to be submitted electronically to Todd M. Penney, PE. Town Engineer at tpenney@coventryct.org. All questions and answers will be posted on the Town of Coventry Website, https://www.coventryct.org/bids.aspx. Questions will be accepted until 4:00 PM. on February 4, 2022; answers will be submitted by 4:00 PM. on February 8, 2022. All letter of interest must be postmarked by a U.S. Post Office (if mailed) or received in the Public Works Department at 100 Olsen Farm Road (if hand delivered), no later than 10:00 A.M. on February 11, 2022. Responses received or postmarked after this dated will not be considered.

The Town of Coventry is an Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Employer. Minority/Women's Business Enterprises are encouraged to apply.

John A. Elsesser Town Manager Town of Coventry 1/13/2022 7124776

Connecticut Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated:576 Danbury Road, New Milford, CT, 06776, 1/27/2022 at 11:00 AM., Geams T. Gill Unit #129 containing household items, dresser, tv. Kathy Barreira Unit #186 containing household items, Richard Duane Evans, Unit #168 containings, Bed, Mattress, Table, Refrigerator, Bags. Chairs, Power Tools, Tool Box Matthew Solberg Unit RV502 containing trailer, household items, tables couch The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagetreasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property. 1/13, 1/20/2022 7122287

Frontier provides basic residential services for rates from \$10.53 - \$23.00 for flat rate service. Frontier also provides basic business services for rates from \$81.00 - \$93.05. Other taxes, fees, and surcharges may apply. Frontier offers single party service, touch tone, toll blocking, access to long distance, emergency services, operator assistance, and directory assistance. Use of these services may result in additional charges. Budget or economy services also may be available. Frontier offers Lifeline service which is a nontransferable government assistance program that provides a \$5.25 discount on the cost of monthly telephone service or \$9.25 on eligible broadband or bundled voice and broadband products (where available) and is limited to one discount per household. In addition to Basic Lifeline, individuals living on federally recognized Tribal Lands who meet the eligibility criteria may also qualify for additional monthly discounts through Enhanced Lifeline and up to \$100.00 toward installation fees through the Tribal Link-Up program. You may also qualify for an additional state discount where available. If you have any questions regarding Frontier's rates or services, please call us at 1.800-FRONTIER for further information or visit us at www.Fontier.com.

Town of Berlin Request for Proposals On-Call Services Bid # 2022-16 through 24 The Town of Berlin is seeking proposals for On-Call Services from expert, qualified, and independent firms for the following:

 Architectural Services – Bid #2022-16
 Carpentry and Construction Services - Bid # 2022-17 • Door and Hardware Services - Bid #2022-18

Electrical Services – Bid #2022-19

- Liecturian Services – Bid #2022-19
- Engineering Services – Bid #2022-20
- HVAC Services – Bid #2022-21
- Plumbing Services – Bid #2022-22
- Roofing Services – Bid #2022-23
- Window and Glazing Services - Bid

These are 1-year contracts each with an option to extend or renew.

One (1) original and two (2) copies of sealed

proposals must be received in the Town Manager's Office of the Berlin Town Hall, 240 Kensington Rd, Berlin, CT 06037 by January 27, 2022, at 2:00pm. The Town will not accept submissions by e-mail or fax. The Town will reject proposals received after the date and time noted above. The documents comprising the Request

for Proposals may be obtained on the Town's website, www.berlinct.gov, under "Departments, Purchasing, and Current Bids & RFPs," or from Maryssa Tsolis, Purchasing Agent, Berlin Town Hall, Room 110, 240 Kensington Rd, Berlin, CT 06037 during normal business hours. Each proposer is to determine if the Town has issued any addenda and, if so, to complete its proposa in accordance with the RFP as modified by the addenda.

The Town reserves the right to amend or terminate this Request for Proposals, accept all or any part of a proposal, reject all propos-als, waive any informalities or non-material deficiencies in a proposal, and award the proposal to the proposer that, in the Town's judgment, will be in the Town's best interests Maryssa Tsolis

Purchasing Agent 1/13/2022 7126583

ORDER OF NOTICE BY PUBLICATION Court

Court
CASE NAME:
Tonie Singh vs. Nancy Jean Poole
Administrator, Administratrix of the Estate
of George William Poole et al
RE: Heirs of Linda D. Hemenway, TBD
Essex County Superior Court - Lawrence
43 Appleton Wav Lawrence, MA 01841

WHEREAS a civil action has been begun against you in our Superior Court by Tonie Singh wherein it is seeking to; Quiet Title We COMMAND YOU if you intend to make any defense, that on 02/04/2022 or within such further time as the law allows you do cause your written pleading to be filed in the office of the Clerk of Court named above, in said Commonwealth, and further that you defend against said suit according to law if you intend any defense, and that you do and receive what the Court shall order and adjudge therein. Hereof fail not, at your peril, or as otherwise said suit may be adjudged and orders entered in your absence. It appearing to this Court that no personal service of the Complaint has been made on the defendant a deputy sheriff having made a return on the summons that after diligent search he can find no one upon whom he can lawfully make service, a copy of which is hereto attached and made part of this notice, it is ORDERED that notice of this suit be given to them by publishing, once a week for three successive weeks, the last publication to be at least 20-days before said return day in the:

Newspaper: The Hartford Courant City/ Town: Hartford, CT 1/14, 1/21, 1/28/2022 7126271

Liquor Notices

LIQUOR PERMIT NOTICE OF APPLICATION

This is to give notice that I, SHEVERAN W HARDY, 4 COMSTOCK PL EAST HARTFORD, CT 06108-4024. Have filed an application placarded 12/07/2021 with the Department of Consumer Protection for a CAFE LIQUOR PERMIT for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at 2964 MAIN STREET UNIT C HARTFORD, CT 06120. The business will be owned by NORTH MAIN TOBACCO & BARBER SHOP LOUNGE LLC. Entertainment will consist of: Disc Jockeys, Karaoke, Comedians Objections must be filed by: 01-18-2022.

12/07/2021 SHEVERAN W HARDY 1/6, 1/13/2022 7122127

Car Reviews Saturdays in MOTORING

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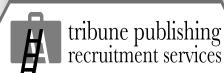




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OBITUARIES BY TOWN

Avon Alan A. Ware **Bloomfield** Williemae Lindsey **Bristol**

Joyce Ann Catania Roger Robbins, Jr. Cromwell Dennis P. Conroy Ellington

Fred Bailey John Ferreira Enfield Joyce G. Wisnesky Farmington

Alan A. Ware Hartford Joyce Ann Catania Savina Dituccio

Robert E. Flint Williemae Lindsey Maria Santiago Manchester Jacqueline A. Britton

Christine Orlowski Middletown Jeffrey J. Parmelee **New Britain** Excell Williams, Jr. Newington

Lawrence Stack Other Towns in CT Fred Bailey Savina Dituccio John Ferreira Charles S. Law Kerry-Ann O'Brien

Charles T. O'Donnell

Dorothy M. Nugent

Out of State Barry A. Lesizza **Plainville** Maryange Boilard Chance Mack

> Shirley Bruno Simsbury Dorothy M. Nugent

Lawrence Stack

Rocky Hill

Roger Robbins, Jr. **South Windsor** Shirley Bruno

Winifred Wilson Southington Dennis P. Conroy

Robert M. Styring Suffield Kerry-Ann O'Brien

West Hartford Savina Dituccio Mary A. Quinn Wethersfield

Caroline Tedone Windsor Robert E. Flint Frank E. Ramsey, Jr.

OUT OF STATE Dorothy M. Nugent Skowhegan, ME

Denotes name listing only. Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order

OBITUARIES

Ware, Alan W



Alan Walter Ware, 83, of Avon, beloved husband of Joan (Hooper) Ware, passed away Monday, January 3, 2022. He was born in Scarborough, England to the late Sydney and Roselind (Newstead) Ware. After growing up in Scarborough, Alan spent several years in the British Merchant Navy and graduated from the University of Hull. He

was employed by General Electric and at Fylingdales, an American early warning system on the Yorkshire Moors, before settling in Farmington with his family in the 1970s. Alan was a man of integrity, optimism and enthusiasm. His strong people management skills led him to Scan-Optics in East Hartford and then to SpectraScan, where he rose to become the CEO. Alan and his family owned a home in Ludlow. VT. where he and his family owned a home in Ludlow, VT, where he loved skiing and boating on Lake Rescue. He enjoyed the many British sports cars the family had and especially liked his Jaguars. He was always the life and soul of family celebrations, and nothing gave him more joy than spending time with his grandchildren, Christopher, Catherine, and Jack. Besides his wife, Joan, and grandchildren, he leaves a son, Paul Ware, and his wife, Dawne, of Farmington; a daughter, Caroline Beitman, and her husband, Alan, of Avon; and a sister, Ann Robson, of Scarborough, England. Due to COVID, Alan's immediate family will hold a private service. The Carmon Funeral Home & Family Center of Avon is caring for the arrangements. For condolences, please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com In lieu of flowers please donate to a charity of your choice.



Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Conroy, Dennis P.



Dennis P. Conroy, 76, of Southington, passed away on January 7, 2022. He was the beloved husband of the late Karen (DePietro) Conroy for over 51 years. Dennis was born on April 8, 1945 in Hartford, a son of the late Patrick Henry and Anna Maria (DePersia) Conroy.

Resources Director for many years for Bradley Memorial Hospital, in Southington,

retiring from Raytel Cardiac Services in Bloomfield, and as a State Marshal after his retirement.

He served in the CT Governor's Foot Guard for over 50 years, served as the 1st Company's Commandant, and retiring as a Lt. Col. He served his community on Southington Town Council, several Charter Revision Commissions, and multiple other town boards. He was also a member of several civic organizations including the Elks, Unico, and the Polish Falcons. He enjoyed traveling with his wife Karen, and he was a season ticket holder for 18 years to UConn Football games. Dennis is survived by his sons Michael Conroy of Cromwell and Kevin Conroy and his wife Lisa of

Southington, sister Carol Grogan, and many nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents and wife, he was predeceased by his sister, Catherine Conroy. Calling hours will be held on Monday, January 17th, 2022, from 4-6pm at DellaVecchia Funeral Home, 211

N. Main St., Southington. A memorial service will be the following day, Tuesday, January 18th at 10:30am at the funeral home. Burial will immediately follow in St. Thomas Cemetery.

To leave an online condolence, please visit www.dellavecchiasouthington.com

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Lindsey, Williemae



Williemae Lindsey, 86, of Bloomfield, CT entered eternal rest on Saturday, January 1, 2022. Williemae was born on March 14, 1935, to the late William and Bessie Owens in Ellaville, GA. She was the wife of the late Hugh A. Lindsey, and from their union brought six children. A celebration of Williemae's

life will take place on Saturday, January 15, 2022, at 11:00am with a calling hour from 10:00am – 11:00am at Bethel A.M.E Church, 1154 Blue Hills Avenue, Bloomfield, CT 06002. Interment will be held at Northwood Cemetery at a later date. To leave a message of comfort for the Lindsey family and view the full obituary, please visit, www.hkhfuneralservices.com



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OBITUARIES

Catania, Joyce Ann (Zukauskas)

Joyce Ann (Zukauskas) Catania, 85, of Bristol, passed away peacefully on Saturday, January 8, 2022 at Bristol Hospital. Joyce is now with the love of her life who she was married to for 63 years. Joseph Catania predeceased her on December 5,2021.

Born on August 25, 1936 in Hartford, she was the daughter of the late Alexander and Ida (Aleandri) Zukauskas. She grew up in Hartford, CT and worked for the Traveler's Insurance Co. until her retirement.

She loved listening to Elvis and Country music with her husband and liked to knit, watch old Western movies and bird watch. Joyce was an avid lover of all kinds of animals, always hélping where she could with animal

Joyce is survived by her sons, Albert Catania and his wife Laurie of Bristol and Joseph Catania, Jr. of San Francisco, California. She was also predeceased by a brother, Robert Zukauskas and many nieces and nephews.

The family will hold a private funeral service and a private burial in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to D'Esopo Funeral Chapel, 277 Folly Brook Blvd., Wethersfield. In lieu of flowers, a donation in Joyce's name may be made to an animal organization of the donor's choice. To share a message with the family, please visit www.desopofuneralchapel.com



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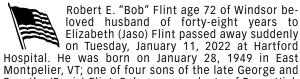
Robbins, Jr., Roger

Roger C. Robbins, Jr., 75, formerly of Bristol, passed away on Friday January 7, 2022, at Arden Courts in Farmington. Roger was born in Bristol on October 12, 1946, the son of the late Roger C. and Theresa (Levins) Robbins. He graduated from St. Joseph Grammar School and St. Anthony High School, Bristol. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering from Indiana State University Indiana Porger served in the US Army State University, Indiana. Roger served in the US Army, in the late 60's, and, using his expertise in science and technology, was stationed at the Mt. Washington, NH weather station. Upon leaving the Army, he was employed as an engineer for Combustion Engineering, which later became ABB, in Windsor CT, retiring in 2001. He traveled internationally for the company, often troubleshooting complex issues with large power plants in remote areas of the world. Roger was an avid angler, being sure to have his license in place for opening day of fishing season. He was also an excellent photographer, providing family members with lasting memories of family events. The family would like to thank his caregivers, especially Roger's aging life care professional Jessica along with Kazia, Dave and Maria. They provided kindness and compassionate care throughout the years, bringing him comfort. Roger is survived by his brother Doran and his wife Ellen, nieces Megan Cyr and her husband Greg, Laura Robbins and her husband Isai Toledano, nephews Thomas and Brian Robbins, great nieces Ariana, Colette, Maya, Noelle and Ciera and great nephew Landon. He also leaves cousins Patricia (Levins) Moreland, Judith (Levins) Michaud, James Levins and Marilyn (Levins) Rushen. Funeral services will be private and at the convenience of the family. Donations may be made in Roger's memory to St. Joseph Church, c/o St. Joseph Parish Center, 133 Queen St, Bristol CT 06010 or St. Mary's Church, 940 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury, CT 06070. To leave a condolence or share a memory, please visit www.OBrien-FuneralHome.com.



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Flint, Robert E. "Bob"



Dorothy (Davis) Flint. Bob was a graduate of Barre High School Class of 1967; after graduating he proudly served his country in the Navy during the Vietnam war. Robert worked in the insurance industry for many years but most recently retired as a manager from The Hartford Insurance Company. He was a member of the American Legion and a dedicated volunteer for Food Share. Bob enjoyed geocaching and traveling especially to Hawaii.

In addition to his wife Liz, Bob leaves to mourn his passing his daughters, Jennifer Bullock and her husband Greg and Suzanne Flint and her husband John Dillard; two grandchildren, Liam and Quinn Bullock; and a brother, William Flint. He was predeceased by his brothers David and James.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, January 15, 2022, at 5:00 pm at the Carmon Funeral Home, 807 Bloomfield Ave., Windsor, CT. An hour of visitation will be held an hour prior to the service from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Burial will be held at the convenience of the family in Windsor Veterans Memorial Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorial denotions in Behir memory may of flowers memorial donations in Bob's memory may be made to Food Share, www.foodshare.org. For online expressions of sympathy please visit, www.carmonfuneralhome.com.



Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Ferreira, John



John W. Ferreira, 61, of Ellington, CT passed away on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at home. He was born in Bronx, NY, son of the late Eric and Phebianne (Michaud) Ferreira. John had worked as an electronic technician for

an electronic technician for Hampton Engineering. When he was younger he played a wide variety of sports, then coached his children in basketball, baseball and softball when they were young. He was an avid sports fan, especially of the Yankees, Cowboys and Celtics. He also had a love of playing card games especially line and also golden retrievers. John games, especially Uno, and also golden retrievers. John is survived by his loving wife of 34 years, Cheryl (Kominski) Ferreira; two children, Jennifer Ferreira and her fiancé Cody Barfield, and Jason Ferreira and his fi ancé Emmaline Cote; two sisters, Irene Ball and her husband Irven, and Rita-Jean Ferreira; his sister-in-law, Karen Janiga and her husband Brian; many nieces and nephews; and his beloved golden retriever, Maggie. He was predeceased by a sister, Louise Madan. Calling hours will be held on Friday, January 14, 2022 from 4 PM to 6 PM, with a funeral service beginning at 6 PM at Introvigne Funeral Home, Inc., 51 East Main St., Stafford Springs, CT. Burial will be private. Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22478, Oklahoma City, OK 73123. For online condolences or directions, please visit: www.introvignefuneralhome.com

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O'Brien, Kerry-Ann



Kerry-Ann O'Brien, 41, of West Suffield, beloved wife of Thomas J. O'Brien, Jr. passed away on Monday, January 10, 2022 at Baystate Medical Center, Springfield, MA. Born October 31, 1980 in Springfield, MA daughter of Mary-Ellen (McCue) Sweatland of East Michael Windsor and Sweatland, Kerry-Ann lived in Suffield and West Suffield

most all her life. She graduated from Suffield High School with the class of 1998. Kerry-Ann started her career at the Suffield House and would move on to CT Children's Hospital, she worked as a para in the Suffield School System, and she was currently serving as Executive Director at the Suffield Housing Authority. She was a parishioner of Mary, Gate of Heaven Parish-St. Mary's Church, Windsor Locks, she loved to go camping, spend endless days at the beach, and she was an active supporter of the Suffield Boy Scouts Troop 260. Besides Tom, her husband of 21 years, she is survived by two children, Shannon O'Brien and her wife, Jasmine of Alaska, Cayden O'Brien of West Suffield; a sister, Casey Starvish and her husband, Daniel of East Windsor; a niece, Abigail Starvish of East Windsor; her father-in-law, Thomas J. O'Brien, Sr. of Suffield. Her family will receive friends on Friday, January 14, 2022 from 4-7 PM at Nicholson & Carmon Funeral Home, 443 East St. N. (Rt. 159), Suffield. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, January 15, 2022 at 10:00 AM at Mary, Gate of Heaven Parish-St. Mary's Church, 42 Spring St., Windsor Locks. Burial will be in St. Joseph Cemetery, Suffield. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: Suffield Community Aid, 450 South St., Suffield, CT 06078. To leave on-line condolences please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com



Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Nugent, Dorothy M. (May)

Dorothy (Regina) May Nugent of Skowhegan, Maine passed away on December 26, 2021 of natural causes. She was 92 years old. She was recently preceded in death by her beloved husband of 71 years, Russell A. Nugent. Jr.

Dotte was the youngest child in a large family that was quite proud of their Polish heritage. She grew up in Newington, Connecticut. In high school, she was Class Secretary, played varsity basketball, was a cheerleader and was active in the Glee Club and Chorus. She married in 1950 and followed her husband to Wichita Falls, Texas where he was stationed in the Air Force. Her daughter Ivy was born there in 1953. They eventually moved back to Newington and Dotte worked many years in the State Capital. In 1966, the family moved to Simsbury, Connecticut where son Russell III (born in 1962) was raised. Dotte worked many years at Ensign Bickford in Simsbury. She enjoyed pheasant hunting and fishing with her family and was active in bowling and golf leagues with friends. After retirement, Russ and Dotte moved to Skowhegan, Maine where they resided until recently. They spent much time together, traveling and enjoying the outdoors. They enjoyed UConn women's basketball, Red Sox baseball and Penn State football. There will be no services.

Dotte was a beloved mother and wife and a kind, caring, and patient person. She will be missed.

Arrangements entrusted to Hobbs Funeral Home, South Portland, Maine. Online condolences may be expressed at www.hobbsfuneralhome.com.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

O'Donnell, Charles T.

Charles T. O'Donnell, Sr., 86 of Centerbrook, passed away peacefully at his home on January 10, 2022. He leaves his wife of 61 years, Sabra A. (Munsell) O'Donnell, his children, C.Thomas O'Donnell, Jr.(wife, Melissa), Verna O'Donnell, Mary-Jo Wirtanen (husband, Robert) Janet Chapman (partner, Keith Murphey), and Jason Eichman (wife, Shannon), 14 grandchildren, two great grandchildren, his brother John O'Donnell and several nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his brother Arthur O'Donnell, sister Mary O'Donnell, and son David O'Donnell. Visitation will be held on Saturday, January 15,, 2022 from 2:00PM to 6:00PM at the Robinson, Wright & Weymer Funeral Home, 34 Main Street in Centerbrook. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made in his name to the Essex Ambulance Association, PO. Box 233 Ivoryton, CT 06442. To view his full obituary, share a memory or leave a condolence for his family please visit https://rwwfh.com.

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Wilson, Winifred



Winifred (Winnie) Wilson reluctantly left this world on January 7, 2022 at St. Francis Hospital surrounded by her children and grandchildren. She was 88.

Winnie was born in Los Angeles, CA and raised in Brooklyn, NY. She graduated from Queens College in New York with a degree in speech therapy. She held a variety of jobs before marrying her teenage love, Walter Wilson,

who later became an aeronautical engineer for Pratt & Whitney. She worked as clerk to the South Windsor Town Council and then in cash management for CBT and later Fleet Bank and Bank of America. She was politically active in the Town of South Windsor and served on the Planning and Zoning Commission, as well as with the Democratic Town Committee.

Winnie was known and loved for her ready smile and her genuine warmth. She was a generous supporter of many charities and valued kindness above all. A passionate cook and a voracious reader, she also enjoyed boating in Rhode Island and skiing in Maine, as well as international travel. Her favorite place in the world was her home in the Catskill Mountains where she spent her summers as a child picking wild berries and milking goats.

She leaves her son Chris and his wife Diane of Wilton, CT and their two children, Christopher and Caroline, her daughter Beth of Hong Kong; and her rescue cat Daisy Mae. In lieu of flowers, people are encouraged to make donations to the ASPCA in her memory. A celebration of her life will be held later in the year. Please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com for online condolences.



www.carmonfuneralhome.com Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

hare memories, express condolences, and celebrate life in the obituary section on courant.com.

OBITUARIES

Lesizza, Barry Alan



Barry Alan Lesizza, 78, of Roanoke, Virginia (formerly of Vernon, Connecticut) passed away on January 7, 2022 with his family by his side. Barry was born on September 20, 1943 in Hartford, Connecticut and raised in Ellington until he settled in Vernon, CT for most of his life. He relocated to Roanoke, Virginia in 2005 where he retired and enjoyed his later life with his loving wife, Yvonne Doiron Lesizza. The son of Stanley and Harriett (Busher) Lesizza, Barry graduated from Ellington High School and immediately entered into service in the United States Navy. Stationed on the USS Saratoga, he proudly served his country during the Cuban missile crisis until his honorable discharge in 1964. After this, his path in life led him to meet Yvonne, the love

Barry's experience gained serving in the Navy as an HVAC mechanical engineer, led him to a career in HVAC estimating. When not working, he found his true enjoyment in music, restoring vintage LP albums, fishing, and researching anything involving model trains with

his grandson, the apple of his eye.

of his life, and they married on June 24, 1967.



His wife, Yvonne (Doiron) Lesizza, his daughter Lesly (Lesizza) Connolly, and his grandson, Sean Alan Connolly are here enjoying the memories of his infectious laugh, incredible sense of humor, and are comforted knowing how he touched the lives of his closest friends and those he met through the years. We would like to thank the Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital's 6 Mountain ICU staff for their loving

care of Barry and our family during our brief time there. Funeral services and burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers or donations, we would like to ask you to be kind to one another. Never take for granted that there will be a tomorrow. Always try to pay it forward, and do something for someone else without expecting anything in return. Barry exemplified this mantra, and it would please him to know that this continues in his memory.

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Britton, Jacqueline Ann (Winslow)



Jacqueline Ann Britton, age 94, passed away peacefully on [.] January 2022, having led a full life. She was born January 1, 1928 in Boston, Massachusetts to Charles and Ann Winslow. Jackie met Jim Britton, the love of her life, when she was a child and they made their home in Manchester, CT where they lived for most of

their lives. Jackie was a good student, graduating from Manchester High School in 1945. She married Jim in 1951 and together they raised three daughters: Jill Mack, Joanne Britton and Jennifer DiMauro.

Jackie was a farm girl and nature lover at heart, caring for every living creature. She had the ability to beautify the world in the simplest of forms. Her love language was felt by all who knew her through food and gifts. Caring for all in her circle of love, Jackie lived her life with a big open heart, offering a caring note, a floral arrangement, or a baked treat. She fed the opossum every night and the mailman nearly every day.

With boundless energy, Jackie possessed a work ethic that was respected by all. She picked tobacco, was employed as a dental assistant, worked at Pratt and whitney, and Brown's Flowers, where she was a floral designer. Jackie's passions included baking, sewing, quilting, and gardening. She is remembered well for her famous pepper jelly, and sitting for untold hours meticulously sewing doll clothes, recital costumes, bridesmaid gowns, and beautiful quilts for each of her girls and grandchildren.

The activities Jackie enjoyed most included room mother, cafeteria and scout volunteer. She was a member of the Nutmeg Quilters Guild, Concordia Lutheran Church Altar Guild, and served as a founding member and officer of the Perennial Planters Garden Club. As a woman of faith in God and a lifelong member of Concordia Lutheran Church in Manchester, she was co-honored with Jim as the "Concordians of the Year" in 2001.

Besides her husband and children, Jackie is survived by her sons in law: Kevin Mack, Thomas Chmielewski and Salvatore DiMauro Jr. She was Grammie to her 10 grandkids: Briar Handly (spouse, Melissa), Jeremy Handly, Tamera Mack (spouse, Lira), Aaron Mack (spouse, Natalie), Brittany Florio, David Chmielewski (spouse, Rachel), Michael Chmielewski, Salvatore DiMauro III (spouse, Lauren), and Trent DiMauro, and was recently predeceased by Clifford Florio. She had 5 great grandchildren: Lauren, Alexander, Olivia, Parker, and Peach, all of whom she loved dearly and held close. Her legacy lives on in the knowledge she passed down and the exquisite folk art she leaves behind. She will be forever honored and missed. A celebration of Jackie's life will take place at Concordia Lutheran Church, Manchester, CT at a later date. In lieu of flowers, a memorial donation to Jackie may be made to MACC Charities P.O. Box 3804, Manchester, CT 06045.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Law, Charles Sayward



Charles Sayward Law, age 90, A long time resident of Clinton Ct. passed away peacefully at his home sur-rounded by his loving family on January 6, 2022.

He was born on February 5, 1931, son of the late Charles and Arlene (Palmer) Law Of Madison, Connecticut. He entered the United States Naval reserve prior to his service with the United States Air Force in the Korean Conflict. He married his beloved wife loan (Paiss) Law in 1957 and together



wife Joan (Reiss) Law in 1957 and together

"Chuck" spent most of his career as a heavy equipment operator, working his final job for 20 years at Electric Boat as a crane operator.

they raised three daughters.

He spent the next 30 years of his retirement tending to his prolific vegetable gardens in the summer, traveling with Joan and enjoying time with his family.

He rode his bike as a hobby which led to years of bike excursions from Old Lyme to West Haven. When he turned in his bike he made sure he continued to stay healthy by going to the gym three times a week.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his three daughters. Kim(Glen) Rice, Laura(Damon) Hall, and Ginny (Chris) Brestelli, his grandchildren Dr. Jessica(the late Charles) Parr, Meredith(JB) Lynch, Adam Brestelli, Travis (Bryce) Brestelli ,great grandson, Oliver Lynch, his brother Jack(Rita) Law and his devoted dog Miley.

He is predeceased by his brother Bill Law, and two sisters, Shirley and Evelyn Law.

His family will hold a private burial and memorial service at a later date. In Lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in his name may be made to the charity of one's choice. Arrangements in care of the Guilford Funeral Home, 115 Church St., Guilford Ct. To share a memory or leave condolences, visit www.guilfordfuneralhome.com

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Bruno, Shirley



Shirley (Hallett) Bruno died peacefully at home with her devoted family by her side on January 5, 2022 after an in-tense and courageous battle with ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis). She was 61.

Shirley was the loving wife of Paul Bruno for 38 years and mother of Michael Bruno of Nashville, TN and Victoria (Bruno) Heavener of Stafford Springs. She was born in Meriden on January 20, 1960.

daughter of the late Melvin and Mildred (Wilsch) Hallett Shirley will be remembered not only for her brave, eight-month fight against ALS and other intense illnesses during her adult life, but most especially for how she lived. A graduate of Wheeler High School in North Stonington

and the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, Mass. Shirley met Paul at UMASS when they were 18-year-old freshmen astronomy majors and never left each other's

side. They were best friends and confidants.

After graduating with a physics and astronomy degree in 1982, Shirley began her career as an engineer for then-United Nuclear Corp. in Uncasville, until it was cut short by the first of her battles with lupus. Shirley quietly and bravely battled lupus for her entire life -constantly heating the odds and persevering. constantly beating the odds and persevering.
With resolve, Shirley turned her focus to her children

-- Michael and Victoria. Always there to support and help them grow in their music and photography pur-suits, Shirley also volunteered at her children's schools throughout the years.

Shirley's support for her children's education and professional quests stemmed from her own love of literature, crafts and music. Shirley's artistic and craft talents blossomed when the children were little and grew steadily through the years. She was a master at knitting, crocheting, cross stitch, sewing and especially quilting. She hand-crafted intricate and beautiful costumes for Michael and Victoria at Halloween and many school events. She also mentored friends and family in sewing and quilting. Her quilts are works of art and won numerous awards. She loved to spend tens and sometimes hundreds of hours patiently crafting heirloom quilts for family and friends' marriages, births and major milestones. Shirley's memory will live on in the quilts that will be handed down from generation to generation.

Shirley loved to travel and was especially joyous doing so in the company of close friends and family. Shirley and Paul visited much of the country - her two favorite places being sunny beaches and the desert. She enjoyed cruises and regularly went on one or two a year throughout the Caribbean as well as Alaska. She and Paul also treasured their special trips to Hawaii and Italy.

A huge rock & roll fan, Shirley saw her two favorite bands -- the Eagles in Arizona and Queen in Nashville -- in concert with dear friends and family. These were times that were especially memorable to Shirley and

In addition to Paul, Michael and Victoria, Shirley is survived by a son-in-law, David Heavener Jr. of Stafford Springs; sister Gail Hallett Sena and her husband Jim Sena of Cromwell; sister Jeane Hallett of Nashua, NH; father-in-law and mother-in-law Rodolfo and Maria Bruno of Rocky Hill; brother-in-law and sister-in-law Giuseppe and Laurie Ann Bruno of Wethersfield; nephews Joseph Bruno, Anthony Bruno, Holden Sena, Brett Sena, Roger Soulard and wife Lauren; nieces to whom she was "Aunt Shirley" -- Krissy Peterssen, Michela Perkins and Lauren Bolduc. She also leaves her beloved pets, Lexie and Jet.

Shirley was blessed with wonderful friends and especially very close friends and family in the South Windsor area. She was always there for them and they were there for her, especially during the darkest times of battling ALS. The family cannot thank them enough for all of their love and support.

The Bruno family also wishes to thank her healthcare aide, Debra, for her great support and also the wonderful hospice team from Visiting Nurses & Health Services

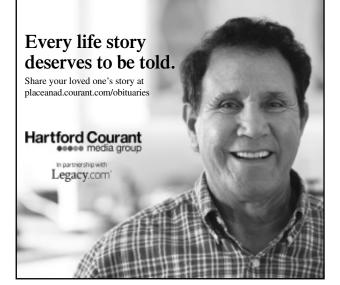
Please remember Shirley for being a beautiful, kind and sweet soul with a generous and loving heart. She loved her husband and kids completely and intensely, and loved her family and friends with all her heart.

The family will receive relatives and friends from 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday, January 14 at D'Esopo Funeral Chapel, 277 Folly Brook Blvd, Wethersfield. A prayer service will take place at 10 a.m. on Saturday, January 15 at the D'Esopo Funeral Chapel. Burial will follow at Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Shirley's memory to an amazing organization that greatly helped Shirley and her family: The ALS Association of CT. Donations in Shirley's name can be made to: ALSA CT, 4 Oxford Road, Milford, CT 06460 or online at www. alsact.org.



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Santiago, Maria



Maria Santiago, 89, of Hartford, beloved mother and grand-mother, passed away on Sunday, January 9, 2022. She was born in Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico to the late Marcos Santiago and Bernardina Santiago and Bernardina Rodriguez. Maria, was loved by a large family of children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. She enjoyed

music, dancing, and spending time with her family. Maria is survived by her children Carlos Manuel Stuart, Hector Luis Alvarado, Antonio Alvarado, Miguel Ramon Alvarado, Mirta Elena Alvarado, Jorge Alfredo Alvarado, Felix Raul Alvarado, Lourdes Anery Alvarado, Marcos Alvarado. Preceded in death by Anery Alvarado, Marcos Alvarado. Preceded in death by her children, Victor Manuel Alvarado, Jose Humberto Alvarado, and Vurgen Milagros Alvarado. She will be missed and forever loved by her family. Her family will receive friends on Friday January 14, 2022 from 3-6PM at South Green Memorial Home, 43 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford CT 06114. A Liturgy of Christian Burial will take place on Saturday January 15, 2022 at 10AM at St. Augustine Church, 10 Campfield Ave., Hartford, CT 06114. Burial will follow in Mount Saint Benedict Cemetery, 1 Cottage Grove Road, Bloomfield, CT 06002. For condolences please visit www.carmonfuneralhome. For condolences please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.



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Quinn, Mary A.



Mary A. Quinn, 87, of West Hartford, died peacefully on Monday, Jan. 10, 2022. Mary was born in Hartford, the daughter of the late Richard and Helen Quinn. Mary worked for a short time for the Aetna after graduating from Hartford High School. She didn't like the feel of a big office so she went to Dwight Foote, Inc., where she remained for over

50 years as the company grew, retiring as the office manager.

Family was everything to Mary, and though she never had children of her own, she always made time for her nieces and nephews, and then grand-nieces and grandnephews, treating us to days at her beach house in Waterford, trips to New York, ice cream, pony rides and trips to the park. She loved holidays and always came dressed up with a perfect hairdo and never empty handed.

Mary was a devout Catholic, and never missed mass. She looked after her aunts and uncle and visited them once a week until their passing. She was a huge Whalers fan, and was keenly disappointed when they left Hartford. She also loved shopping, going to the casino, going out to dinner and picking out the perfect gift for whatever occasion was at hand.

She leaves her sister-in-law Alice Quinn of Phoenix; nieces, Lauren Roche and Mary Fuller (Ed Wodzicki) Helen Zakewicz (Mario Loviso), Janet Salemi (Vincent) Ann Zakewicz, Laura Riddle (Wayne), Jamie McDougall (Bruce), Linda Quinn; nephews, Mark Preissner (Lynn), Shaun Roberts (Stephanie), Richard Roberts (Michelle) David Roberts, Joseph Zakewicz (Donna); and many grand-nieces and grand-nephews and their children. She was predeceased by her sisters Jeanne Preissner, Janet Zakewicz and husband Al, Judith Anne Roberts and husband John, her brother Richard Quinn and her niece Beth Page.

Her family would like to thank Mary's caretakers at West Hartford Health and Rehab, who took great care of Mary through her long illness.

Relatives and friends are invited to call on Saturday, Jan. 15, 2022, from 10:30 am to 11:30 am at Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Newington Memorial, 20 Bonair Ave., Newington. A Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 12:00 noon at Our Lady of Sorrows Church Hartford. She will be laid to rest in St. Mary's Cemetery, East Hartford. Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. To share your sorrow with the family, please visit us at www.duksa.net.



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Tedone, Caroline (Azia)



Caroline Azia Tedone of Wethersfield, CT died peacefully in her sleep on January 8. Born in Hartford on November 12, 1930, Carol was predeceased by her husband of 61 years, Joe. Over the last few years of her life, Carol found contentment and happiness living in the Village at South Farms, an active assisted living facility. Though wheelchair bound for the last few years, Carol managed to participate in every activity and almost never missed the afternoon cocktail hour. She also had a reputation for looking stylish, with colorful clothes, matching shoes, lots of jewelry and bright manicured nails. Carol was born Jewish and converted to Catholicism prior to marrying her husband, Joe. Like many converts, Carol became a dovout Catholicism prior to price to the came a dovout Catholicism prior to price to the came a dovout Catholicism prior to price to the came a dovout Catholicism prior to price to the came a dovout Catholicism prior to price to the price to the came a dovout Catholicism prior to marrying her husband, Joe. Like many convertes, Carolipant price to the pric rying her husband, Joe. Like many converts, Carol became a devout Catholic and was an active participant in many activities at Sacred Heart Church in Wethersfield. From being president of the Guild of St Theresa and holding other leadership positions, to cleaning the altar and counting weekly offerings, to ultimately becoming a deacon of the church, Carol fully embraced and supported her church. One of the highembraced and supported her church. One of the highlights of her life was receiving the Archdiocesan St. Joseph's Medal of Appreciation. She will be remembered for her joy of celebrating Christmas and showering her family with gifts; her generosity, love and support of her church and other organizations including the local democratic party where she manned the polls well into her 80s; her bright red hair; bopping around town with her CAT 44 vanity plate, and her many years at the customer service desk at Caldors.

Carol will be missed by her two sons Joe and his wife Kathy, and Mike and his wife Pam. Her 6 grandchildren Jim Tedone (Archana), Kristen Davis (Rob), Alexandra, Michael, Laura and Jack Tedone were blessed to have such a great Nana, as well as her 4 great grandchildren, Elle and Lily Davis and Nora and Luca Tedone.

Funeral Services will be private at the request of the family. The Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home has care of the arrangements. To extend condolences, please visit Farleysullivan.com.

Farley-Sullivan

Funeral Home

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OBITUARIES

DiTuccio, Savina "Sarah"



"Loving Mother, Grandmother & Great Grandmother" We smile as we remember vibrant full life, lived with grace, by our loving matriarch, Savina "Sarah" DiTuccio, age 98 of Wolcott, who passed away peacefully at her home surrounded by her loving family on Tuesday, January 11, 2022. She was

the beloved widow of Eugene

Savina was born March 9, 1923 in Campobasso, province of Campodipietra, Italy, a daughter of the late Anthony & Angela Maria (Davirro) D'Alessandro. She immigrated to the United States in 1949, where she met her husband Eugene DiTuccio, whom she married in September of 1950.

in September of 1950.

Sarah leaves to cherish her memory her devoted son, Martin DiTuccio and his wife Kathy, with whom she made her home, grandchildren Christopher DiTuccio and his wife Rebekah Seabury, Melissa Putetti and her husband Scottie, Joseph and Carver Murphy, and greatgrandchildren Cayden, Cameron and Corbin DiTuccio. She also leaves her loving sister Vincenzina Fontana of West Hartford and several nieces and nephews. Sarah was predeceased by her brother, John D'Alessandro. Arrangements: Funeral Friday, January 14, 2022 at 10 a.m. directly at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. Those planning to attend are asked to meet directly at church. Burial will follow at Mount Saint Benedict Cemetery, 1 Cottage Grove Road, Bloomfield, CT 06002. Calling hours Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m. at Chase Parkway Memorial/Albini Family Funeral Home, 430 Chase Parkway, Waterbury CT 06708 Memorial contributions in Sarah's name may be made to:

Office of Radio & Television (ORTV) 15 Peach Orchard Road Prospect, CT 06712

For more info or to send e-condolences visit: www. chaseparkwaymemorial.com

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Ramsey, Jr., Frank E.



Frank E. Ramsey Jr, 68 of Windsor, beloved patriarch, brother, uncle and brother-inlaw passed away on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Hartford CT to the late Frank Sr. and Florence (Austin) Ramsey. Growing up Frank had many interests that included fishing with his father and brothers, day trips with his fa-

ther in his semi truck to New York, the beach, love of clothes, music and going to clubs. He had a passion for cooking especially barbecues and loved for his family to enjoy his dishes. He loved dogs, especially German shepherds and his Siberian husky Maila. He was an avid fan of his favorite sports teams the New York Yankees and Miami Dolphins. He loved fast cars and had a special Camero, Iroc Z28 that he was so proud of. had a special Camero, Iroc Z28 that he was so proud of. Frank was a natural leader and role model, always taking his younger brothers and nephews under his wings, and ever protective of his sisters and nieces. He worked hard at many jobs in the course of his life but his main occupation was a self-employed long distance truck driver primarily in the moving business, making him a seasoned traveler across all fifty states. Frank enjoyed a well rounded life and will be deeply missed by his loved ones and friends. He leaves to cherish his enjoyed a well rounded life and will be deeply missed by his loved ones and friends. He leaves to cherish his memories, his siblings; Mary Matthews, Jean Washington, Linda Ramsey-Scott, Deborah Jones, Michael Ramsey, Sharon (Matthew) Davis, Sheila Hall, Norman (Brenda) Ramsey II, and Darlene Ramsey. He also leaves 61 nieces and nephews, and a host of other relatives and friends. Calling hours will be held on Monday, January 17, 2022 from10:00 am-11:30 am with services following at 11:30 am at The Lodge 130 services following at 11:30 am at The Lodge 130 Deerfield Road, Windsor, Ct. For online condolences please visit, www.carmonfuneralhome.com



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Bailey, Fred



Fred J. Bailey, 57, of Ellington and loving husband of 39 years to Maria (Alves) Bailey, passed away, Sunday, Jan. 9, 2022 at Hartford Hospital. He was born Aug. 12, 1964 to the late Thomas F. Bailey and Doris (Marr) Poirier. Fred loved football and was an avid Dallas Cowboys fan. His hobbies were horse racing,

boating and bowling. He was a parishioner of St. Luke Church in Ellington. Fred was a partner at Specialty Printing in East Windsor along-side his brothers. Besides his wife, Maria he leaves behind his loving daughters and sons-in-law; Samantha and Kyle Kennedy, Amanda and Steven Lamelin; his grandchildren, Loren Kennedy, Jason and Makenzie Lamelin; his mother, Doris Poirier; his siblings; William Bailey and his wife, Veronica, Francis Poirier and his wife, Selena, Edward Poirier, April Albee and her huswife, Selena, Edward Poirier, April Albee and her husband, Walter; his sister-in-law, Jessica Poirier, and his step-mother Marlene Bailey. He also leaves behind many nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was predeceased by his father Thomas Bailey; step-dad, Frank Poirier, and brother James Poirier and his son James Frederick Bailey. Relatives and friends are welcome to join the family from 3:30 p.m. -7:30 pm, Friday, Jan. 14, 2022 at the Burke-Fortin Funeral Home, 76 Prospect Street, Rockville. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 15, 2022 at St. Luke Church, 141 Maple Street (Rt. 140) in Ellington. (Please meet at church) Burial will follow at Ellington Center Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the National MS Society, P.O.Box # 91891, Washington, D.C. 20090. For online condolences or directions please visit: www.pietrasfuneralhome.com

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IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory Of THOMAS JEFFREY GIBSON



1/13/1951 - 12/15/2008 Happy 71st Birthday to our Angel in Heaven! All our love, Cynthia, Shonda, Tamara, Jamaal, Grandchildren and Family

In Loving Memory Of PATRICIA M WILLIAMS



12/8/1947 - 1/13/2022

Is is so hard to believe it has been a year since you went home to be with our GOD. I carry your spirit with me always and not a day goes by when someone, somewhere is saying your name, remembering your smile, speaking of a memory with you, humming a song you loved, getting something done as you would or just feeling blessed as you did. I miss you so but also look forward to us being together again. Until then know that I love you very much and use that love to inspire me everyday. ... until we meet again...

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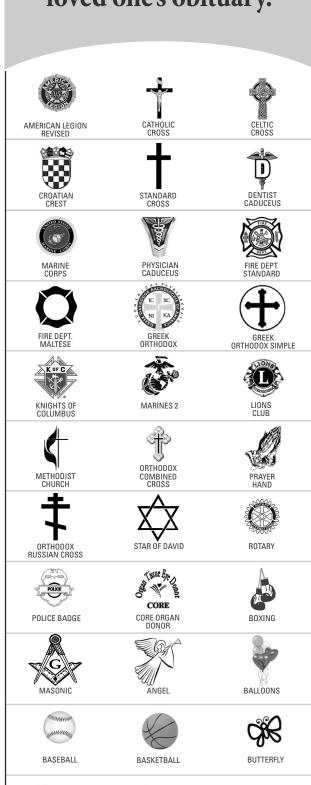
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Hartford Courant

CONNECTICUT

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CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

COVID-19 cases show signs of slowing

State positivity rate dips slightly at 21%

By Alex Putterman Hartford Courant

Connecticut's rate of new COVID-19 cases may have begun to slow or even decrease, new numbers

suggest, as experts say the state nears its omicron variant peak.

Connecticut reported 7.318 new COVID-19 cases Wednesday, a total that a few weeks ago would have marked a record but now represents a sign of modest improvement. The state's seven-day average of new cases has now dropped two days in a row after hitting an all-time high on Monday.

After a period of sharp increase in late December and early January, COVID-19 cases and positivity rate have seemed to level off in recent days, leading experts to believe the state is approaching a peak, with a gradual decline in transmission to follow.

'We are at a plateau right now," Dr. Tom Balcezak, chief clinical officer at Yale New Haven Health, said Wednesday. "I think what we will see with this in the coming five or six days is we will begin to see an ease-up of the total number patients

in the hospital, but it will be a slow decline over the next four to six weeks."

Though the number of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 continues to rise in Connecticut, the rate of growth has slowed significantly since last week, and the southern part of the state — which has been at the front end of the omicron surge — may already be turning a corner.

"[Hospitalizations] appear to be plateauing or even coming down a little bit," Yale New Haven Health CEO Marna Borgstrom said Wednesday, while also

Turn to Virus, Page 2

NEW HAVEN

Officer dies after 13 years in coma

She was involved in crash in which her fellow officer died

By Christine Dempsey Hartford Courant

A New Haven officer who has been in a coma since she was involved in a highspeed collision with a sergeant while on her way to a call in 2008 has died.

Officer Diane Gonzalez died Monday, New Haven police said. She leaves behind a son, two daughters and grandchildren.

Her fellow officer, Sgt. Dario "Scott" Aponte was killed instantly in the crash, city police said. Aponte, 43, was a 17-year veteran; Gonzalez was 47 and had been with the department 13 years at the time of the collision. Aponte's wife, who also served with New Haven police, had delivered a son months earlier.

The crash happened late on the night of Sept. 9, 2008, more than 13 years ago. Both Gonzalez and Aponte were headed to the same emergency call, a report of a violent domestic dispute at 53 Maltby St. The caller said a man was beating a woman as her children watched.

The two officers' patrol cars crashed at the intersection of East and Chapel streets, less than two miles from Maltby.

"If one of those vehicles had gotten to that intersection five seconds later," Police Chief James M. Lewis said at the time, "they would have gotten to that call and handled it."

Three officers had been dispatched to the call at 11:23 p.m. The officers' cars

collided at 11:27 p.m.
Gonzalez had to be cut from her car, police said. She suffered a traumatic brain injury and slipped into a coma from which she never emerged.

On the 911 call, the woman's screams and the man's yelling were audible. "Are they coming?" the caller asked. "He's going to

When officers arrived on Maltby Street, the man and woman were gone. Police tracked them down later, but they refused to cooperate with officers. Police did not arrest the man because the woman suffered no visible injuries, a police spokesman told the Courant at the time.

Christine Dempsey may be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.



A man is helped from a smoky fire on Preston Street on Wednesday morning in Hartford. PATRICK DOOLEY/SQUAD FIRE PHOTO

Eight injured in fire, one in jump from wind

Officials say 32 people displaced

By Christine Dempsey Hartford Courant

Eight people were taken to the hospital Wednesday morning after a smoky fire burned in their Hartford apartment building. Seven were treated for smoke inhalation from the fire at

105 Preston St. in the South End. One woman broke her ankle when she jumped from a window to get away from the smoke, Deputy Chief Kenneth Kowal said. Twenty families have been

The fire in the three-story building was reported about 9:15 a.m., and as firefighters rushed to the scene, they heard reports that people were trapped inside or hanging out windows, he

"There was a lot of smoke on all three floors," Kowal said.

Two residents were helped down a ground ladder from the third floor, and power ladders were used to rescue three others from the second and third floors on the other side of the build-

A woman on the first floor didn't wait to be helped and jumped 6 or 7 feet to the asphalt below, breaking her ankle. Although she wasn't very high up, "a jump like that onto the blacktop would do it," the deputy chief said.

The fire, which didn't spread beyond a first-floor apartment, was knocked down and under control by 9:35 a.m., Kowal said. But while the flames didn't spread, the smoke did — which is reminiscent of the fire in the Bronx Sunday that killed 17. All 17 people, including eight children, died of smoke inhalation.

In the Bronx fire, officials believe a door that stayed open allowed smoke to rise through the high-rise. Kowal doesn't know if that's the reason smoke traveled in Hartford's fire

Turn to Fire, Page 2



Joanna Smiley of Simsbury told police a man walked up to her car Tuesday, damaged a Black Lives Matter decal and pasted a Donald Trump sticker over it. JOANNA SMILEY

SIMSBURY

Man frightens young girl over BLM sticker, pastes Trump decal over it

By Don Stacom Hartford Courant

Joanna Smiley said a routine errand in Simsbury turned frightening for her 8-year-old daughter when a man came up to their parked car, banged on the window, angrily tried to tear off a Black Trump decal over it.

"I came out of the store with a snack for her, I asked if she was OK - she said 'No, I'm not OK. A man was slapping at our window," Smiley said Wednesday. "That's not what you want to hear your child say."

Smiley called police from the park-

of a nearby CVS because her daughter said the man went there after walking away from the car.

Officers checked with stores near Fitzgerald's supermarket where Smiley was parked to see if surveillance video captured the incident. Deputy Chief



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Firefighters at the scene of a smoky fire Wednesday morning on Preston Street. Eight people were injured and 32 were displaced. PATRICK DOOLEY/SQUAD FIRE PHOTO

Fire

from Page 1

Wednesday.

"I was getting reports a lot of apartments were pretty charged up with smoke," he said.

If an apartment door is closed and

well sealed, a resident can stay safe in the apartment even when the hallway fills with smoke, Kowal said.

Inspectors determined Wednesday electrical components, District Chief Mario Oquendo said. The fire department's Special Services Unit is working with the American Red Cross to

Fire marshal representatives were investigating the cause of the fire.

Christine Dempsey may be reached at

Virus

from Page 1

noting that the health system continues to treat COVID-19 patients at levels not seen since Connecticut's spring 2020 wave.

As has been the case throughout the recent surge, state numbers show that vaccinated people remain far less likely to contract, to be hospitalized with and to die from COVID-19.

"Your best defense is still to be vaccinated and boosted and masked." Balcezak said. "It is no guarantee against getting infected, but if you are infected, your chance of ending up in the hospital or ICU or dying is much, much, much less."

Cases and positivity rate

Connecticut on Wednesday reported 7,318 new COVID-19 cases out of 34,460 tests, for a daily positivity rate of 21.2%. The state's seven-day positivity rate now stands at 23.4%. down slightly from earlier this week.

Connecticut has now averaged 9.196 daily COVID-19 cases over the past week, also down slightly from earlier this week. Unvaccinated residents have been about three times as likely to test positive in recent weeks as vaccinated residents, according to state numbers.

All eight Connecticut counties along with nearly the entire rest of the country - are recording "high" levels of COVID-19 transmission as defined by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. With this level of transmission, the CDC advises people to wear a mask in public indoor settings.

Hospitalizations

As of Wednesday, Connecticut had 1,939 patients hospitalized with

afternoon that the 25 adults and seven children who live in the building may not return to their apartments because of damage that includes compromised

help the families find a place to stay.

cdempsey@courant.com.



People wait in line to be tested for the COVID-19 virus outside the Bowdoin Street Health Center on Wednesday in Boston. CHARLES KRUPA/AP

COVID-19, up 19 from Tuesday. Hospital officials say some of those patients were admitted for non-coronavirus reasons before testing positive upon arrival but that a majority have significant COVID-19 symptoms.

Connecticut is now just 33 hospitalized patients shy of its record of 1,972, set on April 22, 2020.

According to the state, 68.3% of people hospitalized with COVID-19 are unvaccinated. Hospital officials say the rate is significantly higher when considering only patients with severe symptoms.

Deaths

Connecticut reports COVID-19 deaths on Thursdays. Last week, the state recorded 121 deaths, bringing its total during the pandemic to 9,281.

As COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations have surged in Connecticut over recent weeks, deaths have risen but still remain far below the levels recorded last winter. Unvaccinated people in Connecticut have been about 17 times as likely to die from

COVID-19 in recent weeks as those who are vaccinated, according to state numbers.

The United States has now recorded 843,426 COVID-19 deaths, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

Vaccinations

As of Wednesday, 90.4% of all Connecticut residents and 95% of those 12 and older had received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, while 75.4% of all residents and 84.1% of those 12 and older were fully vaccinated, according to the CDC.

Additionally, about 46.4% of fully vaccinated Connecticut residents 18 or older have received a booster dose.

The CDC warns that booster shots are sometimes misclassified as first doses, likely inflating the reported number of first-dose coverage and understating the true number of people who have received boosters.

Alex Putterman can be reached at aputterman@courant.com.

EAST HARTFORD

Street camera helps nab 15-year-old in fatal shooting

By Jesse Leavenworth Hartford Courant

East Hartford police arrested a 15-year-old Hartford boy Tuesday in connection to the fatal shooting of

another teenager on Sunday.

The suspect was charged with manslaughter and was being held in state custody, police spokesman Lt. Josh Litwin said.

The 17-year-old victim was found unresponsive on the ground at about 2:45 p.m. in the area of 25 Westbrook St.

The recently installed street surveillance camera system that feeds into a new police intelligence center provided "valuable evidence" in the case, Litwin said. The \$570,000 system is designed to monitor crime hot spots.

East Hartford detectives, in cooperation with the State's Attorney's Office, are continuing to investigate. Anyone with information is asked to call Det. Frank Napolitano at 860-291-7640, or the department's Anonymous Tip Line at 860-289-

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@ courant.com.

Man wounded in daylight shooting near Bristol/Farmington line

By Christine Dempsey Hartford Courant

Bristol police are investigating a daylight shooting that left a victim wounded near Route 6 and the Farmington line.

The man, who is in his mid-20s, was shot shortly after 4 p.m. Tuesday in the area of Route 6, or Farmington Avenue, and Camp Street, police said. He was taken to the hospital, where he was treated for injuries that he is expected to

The shooting happened so close to the town line that Farmington police received the report of gunfire and responded. Once town officers arrived, police said, they determined that the shooting actually happened in Bristol, and city police took over the investigation.

No other information about the shooting was released.

Anyone with information about the shooting is asked to call Bristol's Criminal Investigation Division at 860-314-4561.

Christine Dempsey may be reached at cdempsey@ courant.com.

Sticker

from Page 1

Chris Davis said officers did not find witnesses Tuesday but will continue talking with nearby businesses.

Smiley followed up with police Wednesday afternoon to say that she wants to press charges if a suspect is found. Smiley, who is white, said she views the incident as a hate crime and finds it troubling that it happened just days before Martin Luther King

Smiley, a freelance writer and West Hartford native who has lived in San Diego, Pittsburg and New York City, said it was sad that this happened in the town where she has resided for the past four years.

"I love Simsbury, I feel so at peace here. There are so many good people here trying to do the right thing," she said Wednesday. "But this is not the first instance of discrimination I've heard about here. Not everyone has the chutzpah to go public."

Smiley posted an account of the incident on two Simsbury community pages on Facebook, saying she believes discussion about social justice is badly needed in town because of the political climate over the past several years.

"Open dialogue is so key. The soul of Simsbury is in danger right now," she said.

The town, which is overwhelming white and among the most affluent in Greater Hartford, has organized numerous roundtables on racism and bias in recent years. The town council in 2020 declared racism a public health crisis and designated the local SPIRIT Council as a formal municipal committee to explore diversity issues.

"I'm very disappointed to hear this happened," First Selectman Wendy Mackstutis said Wednesday afternoon when she learned of the incident.

Deacon Art Miller of St. Mary's Church responded to Smiley's Facebook post, saying "Thank you. We shall not be quiet in the face of violence?

Smiley said her daughter, Zoe, was shaken up by the incident, but was able to go to school Wednesday.

Smiley was driving her home from school Tuesday afternoon around 2:50 when she stopped at Fitzgerald's to get her a snack. Zoe has diabetes and Smiley was concerned about her blood sugar; the incident happened while Smiley was in the store and Zoe was in the car.

Smiley said she'd had no argument with other drivers or shoppers, and that her daughter didn't recognize the man who approached the parked car. She described him as in his 20s or 30s with brown hair.

"I have a lot of stickers on my car that are reflections of my values as a person. There are two Stars of David, two Ruth Bader Ginsburg stickers, two Black Lives Matter stickers, an equality sticker," she said. "He wasn't interested in the others. He tried peeling off a Black Lives Matter sticker; he tore it, but it didn't come off. That's when he put a Trump sticker over it."

Smiley said she was able to remove the Trump sticker and hopes to get a replacement for her damaged decal.

"The Black Lives Matter sticker is half hanging off right now. I'm leaving it on. I'm purposefully not letting hatred win."

Don Stacom can be reached at dstacom@courant.com.



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CONNECTICUT

West Hartford to renew overnight parking ban

Courant staff

WEST HARTFORD — West Hartford's overnight parking ban, suspended during the pandemic, will go back into effect Feb. 1, barring on-street parking between 2 and

Reinstating the ban will allow publicworks crews to clear snow and ice more easily. Though the town initially saw few issues related to cars parked on the street, the number of complaints has risen about parked cars interfering with construction projects, as well as on-street noise disturbances and litter in people's yards, according to a release from the town.

The ban was lifted early in the pandemic when remote learning brought a flood of college students and many more people were working from home. It was reinstated during the winter months to allow for road

The town has considered several options for adjusting the town's ban, including overnight parking permits for residents only, exempting certain streets or allowing overnight parking where there is a demonstrated need.

"They would need to obtain a parking permit, and we would provide [them] on a limited number of streets, or within a specific geographic area," then-Town Manager Matt Hart said in October.

Another option would allow the town to provide overnight parking permits specifically to residents of apartments and multifamily housing buildings of five units or more in the eastern portion of town along Farmington Avenue, some of which do not have adequate parking for tenants.

As the ban returns, residents who need to park on the street temporarily may get a permit by registering their car through the parking omit system at omits.westhartfordct.gov.

Retired teachers can return to classrooms

Lamont signs executive order that allows reemployment

Courant staff

The governor Tuesday signed an executive order that allows Connecticut school districts to employ retired teachers under certain parameters.

The executive order, related to COVID-19 emergency declarations, "modifies certain state laws in order to provide school districts with greater flexibility to address the current teacher shortage caused by the recent spike in COVID-19 infections," according to a statement from the office of Gov. Ned Lamont. The order relaxes "certain statutory limits on the availability of retired teachers."

"This executive order is a critical step to providing much-needed resources to ensure we keep students in the classroom and provide them with an in-person education," Lamont said in the statement.

Staff shortages due to COVID-19 have continued to paralyze schools across Connecticut, forcing some districts to cancel classes and sparking calls for a remote learning option from legislators and advocates.

According to the statement from Lamont's office late Tuesday, Executive Order No. 14E takes these actions:

■ "It allows school boards to reemploy or continue to employ retired teachers, even if they reached the maximum limit permitted under state law while receiving retirement benefits by excluding the period between July 1, 2021, and February 15, 2022, from the

salary determination."

■ It modifies certain statutes that allow school districts to hire retired teachers for a maximum of two school years in districts designated as a subject shortage area or identified as a priority school district by excluding the period between July 1, 2021, and February 15, 2022, from being included when calculating that two-year maximum eligibility period."

"We are fortunate to have retired teachers available to provide some relief for their colleagues who continue to do great work for school children across our state," the governor said. "We will continue to utilize all tools at our disposal to provide for a safe and meaningful classroom education for students."

State Department of Education spokesperson Eric Scoville has said that the department is planning for additional test kit and mask distributions as soon as supplies become available and is "actively working with school districts to ensure they receive their needed supplies."

In response to staffing shortages, the department also has issued more than 1,000 daily and long-term substitute authorizations for the 2021-2022 school year, Scoville has said. He also noted that in the first half of the school year, the department issued 67% more substitute authorizations for teachers without a bachelor's degree than it did over the course of the last pre-pandemic school year, 2018-2019.

"We're seeing a staffing shortage for clinicians in the field of mental health. I think we're also seeing certain pressure points in areas that we haven't seen before, like school psychologists and psychiatrists, and even our pediatricians, that are needing to tackle these issues and find referrals for children."

- House Minority Leader Vincent J. Candelora, R-North Branford



Speaker of the House John Ritter, left, and Senate President Martin Looney converse in a Connecticut state Capitol room in

Mental health system in 'deep crisis' a legislative priority

By Mark Pazniokas CT Mirror

Top House and Senate leaders said Tuesday that addressing Connecticut's overburdened and understaffed mental health system for children and adults will be a bipartisan priority when the General Assembly convenes next month.

House Speaker Matt Ritter, D-Hartford, told participants in an online mental health symposium he is optimistic about the potential for significant legislation emerging from a bipartisan working group.

This is a unique moment in time that we can't miss. And we can't assume that anybody who's not been with us before is not with us on this particular subject," Ritter said. "There really is, I think, an opportunity to do something historic, bipartisan, with overwhelming support."

Senate President Pro Tem Martin M. Looney, D-New Haven, who also addressed the symposium, said he agreed with Ritter's assessment, as did House Minority Leader Vincent J. Candelora, R-North Branford, and Senate Minority Leader Kevin Kelly, R-Stratford, in interviews.

Symposium participants said mental health services are better in Connecticut than most states, but the system nonetheless is one in deep crisis — unable to meet demand prior to COVID-19, and now overwhelmed by the prolonged pandemic.

The symposium was moderated by Darnell Ford, a Middletown councilman and a long-time child services worker at the Albert J. Solnit Children's Center, a psychiatric facility operated by the Department of Children and Families. He also is a member of SEIU 1199, a union pressing hard for additional funding.

"Whether it's the public or the private sector, when we think about private sector agencies that are hemorrhaging clinicians, down to zero clinicians in some cases, that's a crisis," said Rob Baril, the union's president.

Baril pointed to the vacancies at state facilities, such as Solnit and Connecticut Valley Hospital, and the shortage of pediatric mental-health beds that left more than 40 children in the emergency department of Connecticut Children's Medical Center last fall.

"That is a system in crisis," he said. Service providers ranging from a social worker to a child psychiatrist sketched a picture of a dramatic spike



Exterior view of Connecticut Children's Medical Center. The legislature passed a sweeping mental health bill last year that largely focused on studies and datagathering in preparation for policy and funding changes to be debated in the three-month session that opens Feb. 9.

in demands for services during the pandemic, particularly for children, from a system fraying before the arrival of COVID.

Ritter promised more funding, but he warned that more than money will be needed to address widespread staffing shortages, even in places that have adequate funding to fill vacancies. Flexibility in licensing appears necessary, he said.

"We have to be honest and say that right now we have a shortage of workers, and it may require allowing our folks to go into other states and their folks to come into our state and practice once in a while." Ritter said.

The legislature passed a sweeping mental health bill last year that largely focused on studies and data-gathering in preparation for policy and funding changes to be debated in the three-

month session that opens Feb. 9. "But I'm telling you, this is the moment," Ritter said. "And if everybody is united and works with a common purpose to pass legislation, we will sit here in May when session is over, and we will have done some historic stuff in this space."

Looney said the issue is a priority of

Senate Democrats. "We had legislation in the last session, Senate Bill 1 and 2, and other vehicles," Looney said. "They created a number of task forces dealing with mental health issues and children's mental health issues that we expect will report back to us with recommendations at the start of this session."

Looney said insurance coverage and funding for mental health services will be addressed.

Candelora and Kelly, the GOP leaders, offered similar views.

"I think we have to pay comprehensive attention to the issue," Candelora said. "We're seeing a staffing shortage for clinicians in the field of mental health. I think we're also seeing certain pressure points in areas that we haven't seen before, like school psychologists and psychiatrists, and even our pediatricians, that are needing to tackle these issues and find referrals for children."

Kelly said he expects the legislature to continue its efforts to improve access to mental health care by addressing insurance coverage and capacity.

"Particularly coming on the heels of the COVID pandemic. I think mental health and mental health services are front and center," Kelly said.

FARMINGTON

Windsor woman dead, 4 injured in four-car crash on Interstate 84

By Christine Dempsey Hartford Courant

A Windsor driver is dead and four others injured, three seriously, after a fourcar crash on I-84 in Farmington Tuesday night during which a large pickup truck came barreling across the median and slammed into her car, state police said.

Nia Justice McDougald. 20, was taken to Hartford Hospital, where she died. Her passenger, Chancellor Thomas Ross, 22, of Hartford, was taken to Saint Francis Hospital with life-threatening injuries, police said.

According to state police, the crash happened shortly before 7:15 p.m. when two vehicles in the east lanes between exits 37 and 39 collided. Troopers said they didn't know what caused the 2007 Ford F150 driven by Sean C. Jackson, 56, of Bloomfield and the 2004 Chrysler PT Cruiser driven by Monica A. Collins-Saatci, 37, of Middletown, to make

The pickup then crossed the median and struck the 2003 Toyota Camry McDougald was driving west in the left lane, police said. The force of the impact pushed the Tovota into another westbound vehicle, a 2020 Jeep Compass driven by

Joseph Didomenico, 35, of New Milford.

In addition to McDougald and Ross, Jackson and his passenger, Jason D. Keyes, 48, of Coventry, and Didomenico were taken to area hospitals. Jackson and Keyes are being treated for injuries that are considered serious, state police said, and Didomenico's injuries are believed to be minor. Collins-Saatci and her passenger, Gregory Alphanso, 38, of Bristol did not appear to be injured.

While troopers were investigating the crash, a car struck a state police vehicle that was parked — its emergency lights activated on the side of the highway for eastbound traffic. The driver, who police said had been looking at the wreck in the west lanes, was taken to the hospital to be treated for minor injuries; he also got a ticket. The trooper was not in the vehicle and was not

Anyone who saw the fourcar crash or has video of it is asked to call the investigator, Trooper Carlos J. Dos Santos, at the Troop H barracks in Hartford at 860-534-1000 or email him at carlos.dosSantos@ct.gov.

Christine Dempsey may be reached at cdempsey@ courant.com.

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Invitation to Bid 2C22-018R Salt Dome Roof Replacement

The City of Bristol is seeking bids to replace a shingled roof system and make other improvements at the salt dome within the Public Works facility, located at 95 Vincent P Kelly Road, Bristol CT. Electronic Bid documents may be obtained for a \$30.00 download fee payable to QuestCDN accessible via the payable to QuestCDN accessible via the

ollowing website: https://www.bristolct.gov/Bids.aspx?BidID=1095

Bids will be accepted until January 31, 2021 at 2:00 pm, via the online electronic bidding system through QuestCDN.com. Bids submitted after the opening date and time will not be considered for award. Bids must be accompanied by a 10% Bid Bond payable to the City of Bristol as issued by a surety licensed to do business in the State of CT. The City reserves the right to waive any informalities in the bid, to reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid that in its judgment is in its best interest.

A non-mandatory bidder's conference will be held on January 21, 2021 at 9:00 am at the project site, located at 95 Vincent P Kelly Road, Bristol, CT.

Pursuant to Public Act 15-5, this contract is subject to state contract compliance requirements, including non-discrimination statutes and set-aside requirements. State law requires a minimum of twenty-five (25%) percent of the state-funded portion of the contract be set aside for aware to subcontract be set aside for aware to sub-contractors holding current certification from the Connecticut Department of Administrative Services. The contractor must demonstrate good faith effort to meet the 25% set-aside goals.

The awarded contractor will be required to secure a Performance Bond and a Labor and Materials Bond, each in the amount of 100% of the contract award, provided by a surety licensed to do business in the State of Connecticut.

The successful Bidder shall not discrimi nate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color religion, gender, or national origin. The Contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed and that employees are treated during employment without regard to their race color, religion, gender, or national origin.

Roger D. Rousseau

Thursday, January 13, 2022 7124692

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF James Dennis Smith, Late of

The Hon. Jennifer L. Berkenstock, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Region #14 Probate Court, by decree dated January 10, 2022, ordered that all claims nation 10, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim

Debra C. Daniels, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is: Kyle L. Walters, 3 Hilltop Drive, Portla

Space Storage will hold public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those in-dividuals listed below at the location indicated: 578 Federal Road, Brookfield, CT 06804, January 27, 2022 at 11:00 AM. Elonda Greene unit 2247, table, bags, headboard and footboard. The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagetreasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning hidder takes proceedings of the processing of the processin bidder takes possession of the personal 1/13/22 & 1/20/22 7122843

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

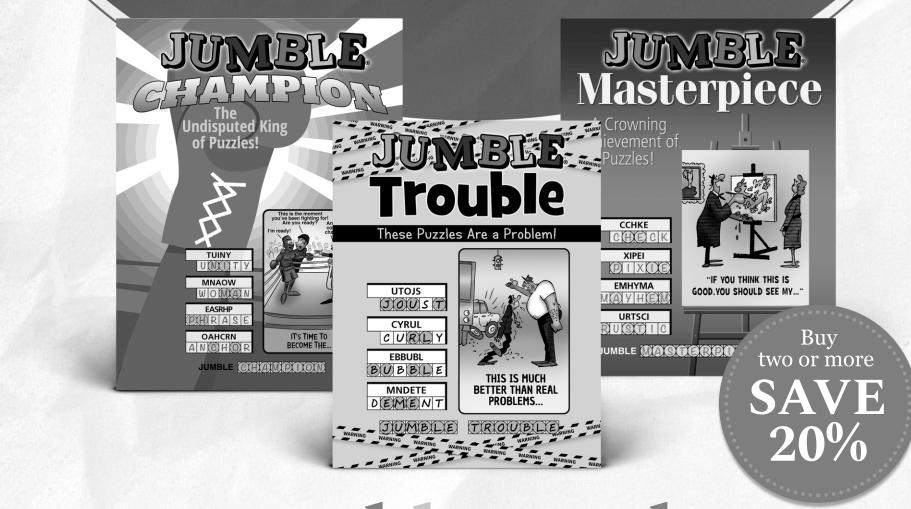
ESTATE OF Grayce A. Brooks, Late of Deep

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated January 6, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim

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Research assistant Katie McCullough holds up a mouse for 16-year-old Jake Litvag to see inside a Washington University laboratory on Dec. 15 in St. Louis. JEFF ROBERSON/AP PHOTOS

By Laura Ungar Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Jake Litvag leaned in for a closer look as a lab mouse scurried around an enclosure, stopping to sniff a large block.

"Hi, Jakob 1. I'm Jake," the 16-year-old said, naming the little furry creature engineered to have the same genetic abnormality he has.

That mouse and its lab-grown relatives are the first in the world to mirror the missing gene that causes Jake's autism. Scientists at Washington University in St. Louis bred the mice, and grew stem cells derived from Jake's blood, to study and find ways to treat his rare disorder and look for answers to the larger puzzle of autism.

Jake's family raised money for the early research, which scientists then parlayed into a \$4 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to delve more deeply into Jake's gene, one of more than 100 implicated in autism. They hope to find "points of convergence" that could someday help people with all forms of the neurodevelopmental condition affecting 1 in 44 U.S. children.

Jake knows he inspired their work. And that's helped him see autism as something to be proud of rather than something that makes him different from other kids. His parents, Joe and Lisa Litvag, figured meeting the scientists and the mice — would show him firsthand what he had brought into being.

'Oh wow. Cool!" Jake said as he watched a mouse climb down a pole while others scampered in a bin.

Walking out of the lab, tears welled up in Lisa Litvag's eyes as she thought about the language within her son's cells helping other children.

"We're deeply proud and humbled to be part of this," said Joe Litvag. "What do we live this life for? It's ultimately to try to, in one way, shape or form, be of service

JAKE'S MICE

Teen meets first mice in the world engineered to have same genetic abnormality as him in scientists' search for answers to puzzle of autism



Washington University researcher Dr. Ramachandran Prakasam pulls stem cells out of a nitrogen tank used in the study of a rare form of autism linked to a genetic mutation in the MYT1L gene.

to others."

The Litvags realized early on that Jake wasn't reaching childhood milestones. He couldn't walk without assistance until he was 4. He struggled to string sentences together in first grade. At first, no one could pin down why. Jake had a mix of different traits. He was hyperactive and impulsive but also social, warm and funny. It took until he was 5 to get a firm diagnosis of autism.

Around that time, the Litvags heard that child psychiatrist Dr. John Constantino, an expert on the genetic underpinnings of autism, was giving a talk at the Saint Louis Science Center. They decided to go in the hopes of meeting him. They did, and he began seeing Jake as a patient. About five years later, Constantino proposed genetic testing. It revealed the missing copy of the MYT1L gene believed to cause 1 out of every 10,000 to 50,000 autism cases. Having an extra copy can cause schizophrenia.

The finding brought the family peace. They'd heard lots of people say autism was mostly caused by external factors, like birth trauma.

"For a long time," Lisa Litvag said, "I thought it was something that I did."

Actually, a large multinational study suggests that up to 80% of the risk for autism can be traced to inherited genes.

"One of the big things it did for us as a family is it made us realize that it's nothing that we did wrong," Joe Litvag said. "It's just that people are born all the time" with

genetic differences. When Constantino suggested studying the little-understood MYT1L gene, the Litvags enthusiastically agreed to help. Constantino — who is on the local board of a group they've long been active in called Autism Speaks asked if they'd be interested in raising money for early research. Joe Litvag, an executive in the live music industry, and Lisa Litvag, a partner in a marketing firm, reached out to family and friends and raised the

\$70,000 needed in about six months.

With half the money, researcher Kristen Kroll and her team reprogrammed cells from Jake's blood into "induced pluripotent stem cells," which can be prodded into becoming various cell types. With the other half, scientist Joseph Dougherty and his team followed the blueprint of Jake's genome and induced his mutation in mice using the gene-editing tool CRISPR.

Since starting the research about three years ago, scientists have bred around 100 mice with Jake's mutation and are now using the great-great grandchildren of the first one they engineered. They recently published about the mice in the journal Neuron.

While scientists can't go back and see how Jake's brain developed, Dougherty said, mice allow them to watch the mutation play out through generations.

Dougherty and his colleagues hope what they learn about how MYT1L functions ultimately leads to medicines or gene therapies that improve or even correct the problems the mutation causes.

They are sharing their findings with scientists studying other autismcausing genes or trying to figure out how various genes work together to cause the condition.

In cases where autism is caused by a single gene, Dougherty said that gene probably does many things to brain development. A key to understanding autism overall is to find one or two things shared across different forms of autism which could then be targets for treatment. Though not everyone with autism wants treatment, Dougherty said it could help those who do.

Dougherty first met the Litvags when they were invited by the school to visit in December. After meeting the mice, they stopped into another lab, where Jake peered through a microscope at his blue-stained stem cells.

"That's me! That's cool stuff. I never saw anything like that in my life," he said.

Dougherty used the visit as an opportunity to share some news, a gift of sorts that he wanted to tell the family in person.

The missing gene doesn't seem to shorten life. The mice live 2 to 3 years, the same as their siblings.

"So, a normal life span?" Joe Litvag asked hopefully. "Yes," Dougherty

answered. "As far as we can tell, identical. I know that's a big relief, too."

Joe Litvag turned to his son. "So Jake, maybe you will live to be 100."

"I will be 112!" Jake replied with a grin.

For healthy eating, research suggests ordering new items on restaurant menus

By Dennis Thompson HealthDay News

Are you attempting to eat healthier? Try ordering a recently added menu item at your favorite chain restaurant, instead of a long-time favorite. Newer dishes served by large restaurant chains tend to contain fewer calories now that menus must list the calorie content of all items.

New research finds that menu items introduced after calorie labeling went into effect in 2018 contained about 25% fewer calories on average compared to dishes intro-

duced before labeling. "The nationwide rollout of these calorie labels appeared to prompt restaurants to introduce lower-calorie items to their menus," said lead scientist Anna Grummon, a research fellow in nutrition at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

A provision of the U.S. Affordable Care Act requires that restaurant chains with 20 or more U.S. locations must post the calorie content of prepared foods on menus.

Prior research has found that people eating out have cut their calories slightly -4% to 6% on average — in response to the new labeling, according to the paper.

But it hasn't been clear how the industry responded to the requirement, in terms of shaking up their menus and offering lower-calorie options.

For this study, Grummon and her colleagues analyzed the calories of more than 35,300 menu items sold at 59 large chain restaurants - including Chipotle, Burger King, IHOP, Dunkin Donuts and KFC - in the U.S. between 2012 and 2019.

The researchers found that restaurants didn't change their formula for existing items in the face of calorie labeling. Dishes on the menu beforehand had the same calorie content

going forward, according to the study recently published in JAMA Network Open. But new dishes offered after labeling went into effect tended to contain an average 113 fewer calories, or about 25% less, than the calories of foods introduced before the requirement, the

researchers reported. "That suggests the labeling law is potentially leading to consumers having more lower-calorie options," Grummon said.



BEBETO MATTHEWS/AP 2017

Smith, Gaga, Affleck score SAG nods

From news services

Will Smith, Lady Gaga and Ben Affleck landed individual nominations for the 28th Screen Actors Guild Awards on Wednesday, while the casts of "Belfast" and "CODA" were among those nominated for the guild's top award, best ensemble.

The nominees were announced Wednesday by actors Vanessa Hudgens and Rosario Dawson on Instagram Live.

Joining Kenneth Branagh's semi-autobiographical "Belfast" and the coming-of-age drama "CODA" for best ensemble were the casts for Ridley Scott's true-tale, highcamp "House of Gucci," Adam McKay's apocalypse comedy "Don't Look Up" and the family tennis drama "King Richard." Notably left out were the casts of Steven Spielberg's lavish "West Side Story revival (which landed a supporting nod for Ariana DeBose) and Jane Campion's "The Power of the Dog." Campion's gothic drama, though, landed individual SAG nods for Benedict Cumberbatch, Kirsten Dunst and Kodi Smit-McPhee.

Along with Smith ("King Richard") and Cumberbatch, the nominees for best male lead actor are Denzel Washington ("The Tragedy of Macbeth") Andrew Garfield ("Tick, Tick ... Boom!") and Javier Bardem ("Being the Ricardos"). Up for best female lead are Lady Gaga ("House of Gucci"), Jessica Chastain ("The Eyes of Tammy Faye"), Olivia Colman ("The Lost Daughter"), Nicole Kidman ("Being the Ricardos") and Jennifer Hudson ("Respect").

Joining Dunst and DeBose in the best female supporting category are Caitriona Balfe ("Belfast"), Cate Blanchett ("Nightmare



The cast of "King Richard," which includes Will Smith, center, is nominated for the SAG award for best ensemble. HBO MAX

Alley") and Ruth Negga ("Passing"). The best male supporting nominees are Affleck ("The Tender Bar"), Bradley Cooper ("Licorice Pizza"), Troy Kotsur ("CODA"), Jared Leto ("House of Gucci") and Smit-McPhee. Kotsur is the first deaf actor to land an individual SAG nomination.

Possibly the most popular TV series of 2021 did haul in plenty of recognition. Netflix's "Squid Game" was nominated for four SAG awards including best drama series. The television nominations were also led by HBO's "Succession" (four nods including best drama series and best actor for Jeremy Strong and Brian Cox); "Ted Lasso" (five nods including best comedy series); and "The Morning Show" (four nods including best drama series).

The SAG Awards will be broadcast Feb. 27 on TNT and TBS.

Goldberg on board for 'Soapdish' revival: Whoopi Goldberg has been tapped to executive produce and star in a new Paramount+ series based on the 1991 comedy "Soapdish," which spoofed the backstage antics of a popular soap

mixes romantic comedy, horror

Produced by CBS Studios in partnership with the NAACP, Goldberg will reprise her role as Rose Schwartz, the head writer of fictional soap opera called "The Sun Also Sets," for the new show.

Considered a cult classic, the film "Soapdish" also starred Sally Field, Kevin Kline, Robert Downey Jr., Cathy Moriarty and Elisabeth Shue.

Bonnaroo names headliners: J. Cole, Tool and Stevie Nicks will headline this year's Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival, which is set to return after a two-year hiatus because of the pandemic and weather. The lineup for the June festival in Manchester, Tennessee, also includes The Chicks, Robert Plant and Alison Krauss. Machine Gun Kelly, and Roddy Ricch.

Jan. 13 birthdays: Actor Billy Gray is 84. Drummer Fred White is 67. Actor Julia Louis-Dreyfus is 61. Singer Trace Adkins is 60. Actor Patrick Dempsey is 56. Producer Shonda Rhimes is 52. Actor Michael Pena is 46. Actor Orlando Bloom is 45. TV personality Ginger Zee is 41. Actor Liam Hemsworth



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Picking up the tab for friend is wearing thin

Dear Amy: I have a long-standing platonic friendship with "Brian." He was recently diagnosed with a very serious illness.

I have always and often treated Brian to restaurant meals and entertainment. I have more than he does, and I am genuinely happy to do this.

However, lately, he has asked me to take him and also his incoming visitor friend/cousin/grandmother, etc. to dinner.

I have no interest in taking people I don't know to dinner.

I have paid a lot of money for all kinds of sometimes major expenses for him over the years.

The last time I paid for dinner, Brian sounded angry. He sneered and said we are "just a couple of gossips.'

It's true that I talk about what is going on with me and mine. He also tells all in great detail.

I celebrate the good news I hear from him, and I feel sad when I learn about tougher events about his friends and family. And then I forget it.

We all are just living our lives and doing the best we

I am tired of being asked to pay for all kinds of things. Is that rude now that my friend has a serious illness?

If I do choose to pay for dinner again, what dinner conversation is now appro-

I guess if we are not allowed to compassionately discuss our friends and families, then we are left to discuss the news. I find the news pretty depressing.

Am I just a "gossip?" Upset

Dear Upset: Your friend is seriously ill. This is bound to make a person reflective and occasionally grouchy.

When he remarked that: "We are both just a couple of gossips," he was referring to himself, as well as you. I see this as a fairly common observation to make when you realize that the bulk of the conversation is usually about other people.

You should talk about it! Say, "I've always thought our conversations were pretty benign. I never judge anyone you've told me about, and honestly think we're all pretty boring. But does it really bother you, or were you just blowing off steam?"

You've obviously been keeping a tab and have reached the end of your tether concerning picking up the check. If you don't want to treat others to dinner, you should be honest, and say so.

But yes, I would say that completely pulling the plug on this friendship now that your friend is ill is less than compassionate.

You say, "We are all just living our lives, doing the best we can."

Ask yourself: "Am I doing the best I can?"

Dear Amy: I have been married to my husband for two years. I knew he had issues when I said, "I do."

However, his addiction has put so much extra stress on me.

He rages, and at times, I fear him. I am an "overthe-road" truck driver, and he will call me all though the night.

It is mind control with him.

I have thought about divorce, and even

contacted lawyers, but I get sucked right back into his lies.

When he is sober, he is the man I fell in love with. Right now, he is locked up, charged with assault

a gun). I know this is my chance to leave. But my heart won't reason with my mind.

with a deadly weapon (not

How do I give up on someone I care about? – Love Sucks in Indiana

Dear Indiana: You don't have to give up on some-

one you care about. However, you shouldn't be married to, living with or physically near someone who puts your own health and safety at risk.

Care about him — from a distance.

I hope you will put your own well-being at the forefront of your life.

Please find a sensible friend, family member or counselor to talk to. You are a part of his problem, and you need to let go.

Dear Amy: As the parent of transgender and nonbinary young adults, I have become very aware of how often (and needlessly) we use gendered language.

The adorable word "nibling" gets us past the awkward "nieces and nephews" quite well and I'm going to start using it for the 17 (soon to be 18) humans in my family! Sopranospinner

Dear Sopranospinner:

I like it, too. Copyright 2022 by Amy

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Content Agency

Genre-bending 'Wolf Like Me'

By Mark Kennedy Associated Press

Isla Fisher's character in the new genre-bending series "Wolf Like Me" is a romantic catch. Kind of.

She speaks four languages, makes cheese and pottery and is good at close-up magic. On the other hand, she can be distant and absolutely beastly. Oh, that reminds us: She has a pretty big personal secret.

"I'm a complicated person," she tells her on-screen potential romantic partner, played by Josh Gad. "I have a really complicated life."

His character understands perfectly: He's a bit of a mess, too, an emotional wreck since the death of his wife, and he's trying in vain to connect with his tween daughter.

That's the setup to the new ambitious Peacock six-part series that recently kicked off and mixes slapstick comedy, adult drama and heartbreaking trauma. It's a story of two scarred people learning to be vulnerable again.

"Love is scary," says Gad. "I think that however you slice it, we all have secrets. We all have baggage. And you don't know what you're getting until you're in it. And then once you're in it, it's too late."

"Wolf Like Me" was created, written and directed by Abe Forsythe, who previously wrote and directed the sci-fi horror comedy movie "Little Monsters," starring Lupita Nyong'o and Gad. Like that film, "Wolf Like Me" mixes genres — this time romantic comedy and horror — to push into the absurd and come back with something sweet and dramatic.

"I was drawn to telling a timeless story in such a unique way," says Gad. "Abe is such a brilliant caretaker when it comes



Josh Gad and Isla Fisher in "Wolf Like Me." PEACOCK

to challenging his artists to tackle different tones and different genres and do that juggling act that feels so foreign and strange and impossible."

Audiences are in for quite a ride right from the beginning, signaled by the series being set in the Australian suburbs and with the casting of Gad and Fisher. He's most known as the cuddly snowman in "Frozen," while she famously played a comically unhinged love interest in "Wedding Crashers."

"Casting Josh and Isla was a big step in ultimately articulating one of the main themes of this show, which is don't judge a book by its cover," says Forsythe. "This is not the usual way that I've seen them, which is what I'm asking the audience to do with the characters."

Fisher and Gad had never worked together before but were friends and ready for a little subversive fun. "I knew that I had a scene partner who was going to take this leap with me," says Gad. "This felt like one of those opportunities to sort of break the mold that audiences in terms of perception have of myself and Isla."

Forsythe, who is a 40-year-old single parent, drew on his own life for

the script, confronting his emotional baggage and exploring the pressures of trying to reassure his child that nothing is perfect and nothing is permanent.

One lovely line of dialogue was given to Fisher, who tells her possible lover: "Messy is good. Break yourself open. It's how the light gets in." Fisher says she felt like the show was a risk, and she loved the challenge. "As with all risks, if they pay off, then it's worthwhile."

Fisher says they trusted Forsythe and the characters. "We both surrendered to Abe, and it was his story. It's a personal story for him. And so I think we found ourselves at the hands of a captain who is very confident and incredibly incredibly passionate about this story," she adds. "We trusted the authenticity of the characters, even though the circumstances are ridiculous."

The horror parts of the show Forsythe says are a metaphor that lets the audience bring their own experience and "reach a level of catharsis."

"This is the first time that I had the time and the resources to be able to tell a story properly, where the resources matched the ambition to what I wanted to say with this show," he

HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April **19):** There may be a lot going on in your social life now, but you might also be aware of more internal activity than usual in your mind. Try mixing the two by letting your friends know what's really on your mind.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): A variety of interesting opportunities in your professional life may be on your mind. Asking yourself what makes you feel most secure could remove at least some of the contenders. You might be surprised to discover that the option vou think your friends would find most impressive winds up off the table.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Putting your feelings into words may be easier than usual for you today. That said, you might not be able to guarantee that everyone you talk to will agree with you. Venting to the wrong audience might cause some drama that you won't want to deal with. Save your breath.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Gathering information about a serious matter can go well for you today. What might be harder at this point is assembling the facts you're collecting into a whole. While you may not be able to know everything for sure, remain calm and allow your intuition to guide you.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Deepening your emotional connection with a friend

could be rewarding for you at this time. However, before talking to anyone else, you might want to envision what you want the new boundaries of your relationship to look like. Going too deep could get you into trouble.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You might get a glimpse of your progress toward your larger career goals. No matter how optimistic you feel, if your future plan relies on cooperation, you may need to consider checking in with them. It could be easy to overestimate how committed they are, so you're better off knowing the truth now.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can get fulfillment from taking care of your responsibilities. It may be difficult to identify progress toward goals like personal growth, so you might be tempted to not bother trying. Today you may be better equipped than normal to get a handle on your big picture.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You could be a key figure in a discussion of how to handle resources within your home now, as you may be really good at analyzing the group's needs. You might be so sold on a course of action that makes sense for the group that you could lose track of whether it works for you.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A meeting of the minds could be achievable today,

as you may be able to have a fulfilling conversation. The challenges of sharing physical space might be harder to sort out,. Remember that keeping a little bit of distance from the other person can give you more to talk about.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your mind is likely on your money these days, and you could put this focus to good use. As you make your plan, be careful to avoid promising anything to yourself or others that you may not be able to deliver. Stick to the facts instead of speculating about how much better you may do in the future!

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Pleasure may call your

name today, making it feel like your money is burning a hole in your wallet. You could also feel particularly confident in your finances at the moment. As long as you can afford it, you might as well get something that you'll be able to enjoy using for a long time.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): You could be going through a growth spurt these days, and expanding in this way takes more energy than you realize. Getting rest might be the most important thing you can do! Stepping out to relax can give you an opportunity to make sense of everything.

TODAY IN **HISTORY**

Associated Press

On Jan. 13, 1898, Emile Zola's famous defense of Capt. Alfred Dreyfus, "J'accuse," was published in Paris.

In 1941, a new law went into effect granting Puerto Ricans U.S. birthright citizenship.

In 1982, an Air Florida 737 D.C.'s 14th Street Bridge

crashed into Washington, while trying to take off during a snowstorm, killing a total of 78 people.

In 1990, L. Douglas Wilder of Virginia became the nation's first elected Black governor as he took the oath of office in Richmond. In 2000, Microsoft chairman Bill Gates stepped aside as chief executive.

In 2001, an earthquake struck El Salvador; more than 840 people were killed.

In 2021, President Donald Trump was impeached over the Jan. 6 siege of the Capitol, becoming the only president to be twice impeached.

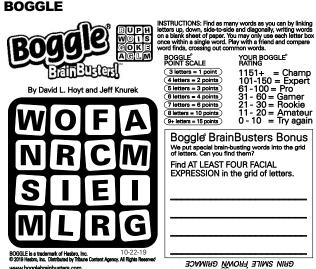
BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

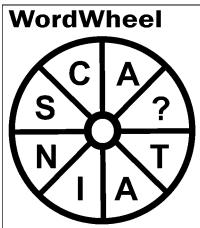
An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at **PlayJumble.com**



SUDOKU

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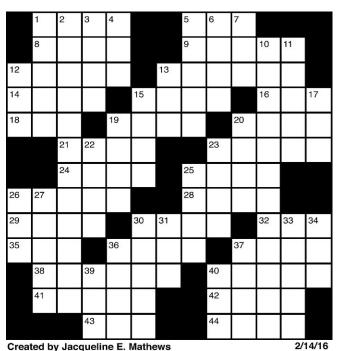
word reading clockwise or counterclockwise CAPTAINS

WORD SEARCH



TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

- "Dharma & 5 Daniel __ Kim 8 Actress Downey
- "The Price Is
- 12 Picture riddle 13 Actress Debra
- 14 "How sweet __!"; Jackie
- Gleason's line 15 Breath freshener
- 16 Cut off
- 18 "Last __ Standing"
 19 Game show host Martindale
 20 "__ You Babe"; Sonny and
 Cher's signature song
- 21 "__ Window"; Hitchcock thriller 23 Staircase parts
- 24 Cartoon dog
- 25 Abbr. on a business letter
- envelope 26 Traditional nun's wear
- 28 Nincompoop 29 Role for Marcia Cross on
- "Desperate Housewives"
- 30 "The Parent __"; movie for Dennis Quaid & Lindsay Lohan



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- 32 Before, in poetry 35 "To ___, with Love"; Sidney Poitier
- movie 36 Money, slangily
- 37 Actress Summer
- 38 "Sesame __"
 40 Woods, for one
- 41 Grade school written assignment
- 42 West and others
- 43 "Buffy __ Vampire Slayer" 44 Apple's center
- **DOWN**

- Garbo or Van Susteren "Good Morning America" anchor 3 Large birds that cannot fly
- Helium or hydrogen Beverage
- "__ Misbehavin"; musical revue
 "The __ and I"; movie for Fred
 MacMurray
- 10 Marg of "CSI"
 11 "F __"; Forrest Tucker sitcom
 12 Curved edge
 13 "__, Lose or Draw"
- _, Lose or Draw"
- 15 Deep mud 17 Half-qts.
- 19 "Heaven Can ___"; Warren Beatty movie 20 "Leave _Beaver"
- 22 Adams or Falco 23 "Non-__"; film for Liam Neeson 25 As blind as __
- 26 Author Stowe's monogram 27 Get up with Connie Chung"; 30 "Eye _
- news program of old 31 Go bad
- 33 "Touched by an Angel" actress 34 Suffix for command or musket
- 36 Ms. Remini 37 Italian farewell
- 39 OPQ followers
- 40 Premium movie channel

Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter

JUMBLE ANKLED G F T H A H

EYESORE

FARMER

FLASHES

FACET

FEAR

CHAIRMAN

CHESTNUT

CLASHES

CHINA

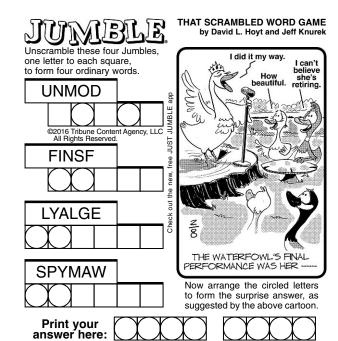
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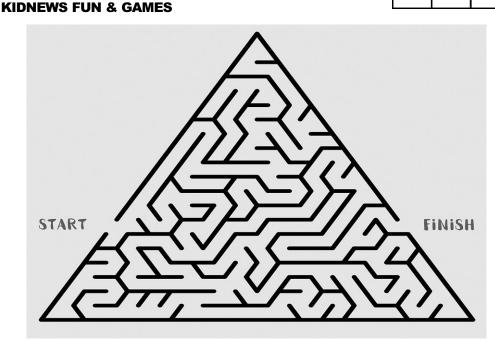
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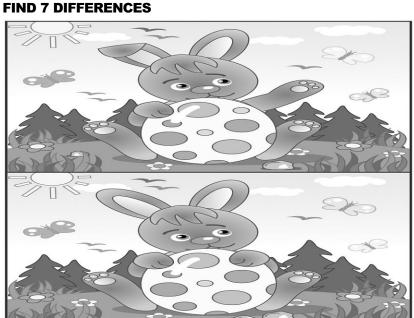
Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble the letters in the circles to reveal a mystery word.

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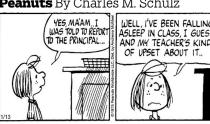
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8

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Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz







Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau

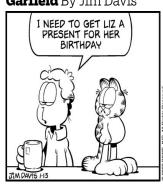




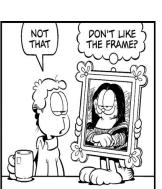


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Garfield By Jim Davis











Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker

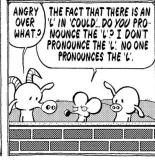


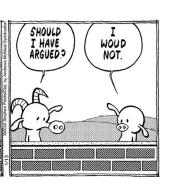




Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis







Mutts By Patrick McDonnell







Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt













Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley







Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall

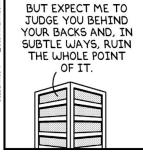






Dilbert By Scott Adams







Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin





Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman

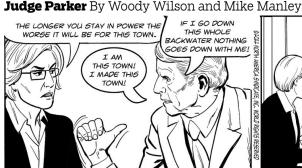




Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty









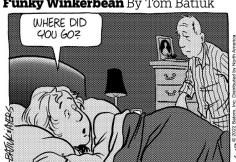
Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos

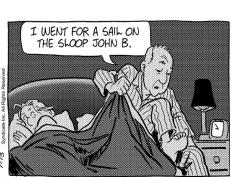




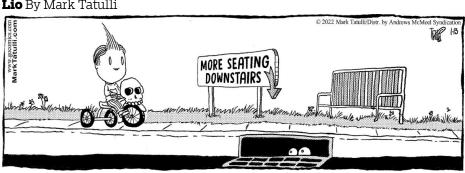


Funky Winkerbean By Tom Batiuk





Lio By Mark Tatulli



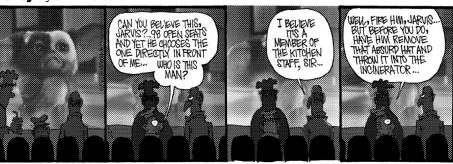
Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker



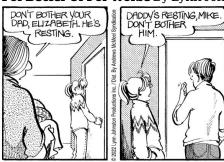
Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price



Monty By Jim Meddick

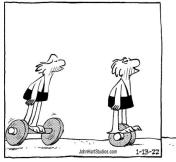


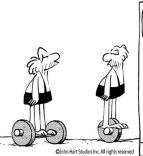
For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston













Beetle Bailey by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker





Hi & Lois By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne





Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne





Non Sequitur By Wiley Miller





Curtis By Ray Billingsley









Pickles By Brian Crane









Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer







Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters



CROSSWORD

60 Appearance

61 Bagel flavor

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10 Nuances

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in baseball

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

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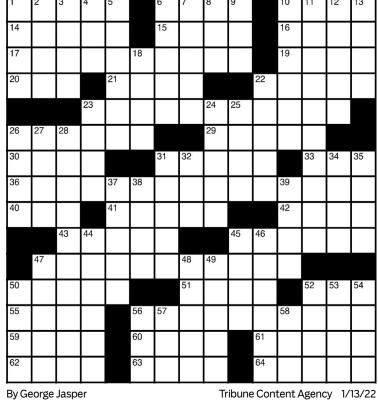
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Bolted down

- 35 One skilled at giving hints?
- "Rescue Me" actor Denis
- Road division USPS deliveries
 - 44 Way out 45 Short dip? "As I was
- saying ... Cameroon neighbor 48 _pole
- 49 Secluded locations 50 Airport ID,
- e.g. 52 Heal, in a way 53 Showbiz "grand
- slam" acronym 54 Itches
- 56 Morning TV fare,
- initially
- Word before France or Jordan
- 58 CNN anchor Cabrera



BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

South dealer. North-South vulnerable. NORTH **♥**Q54 ♦ A Q 8 2 WEST **EAST ★** 5 2 **★** 6 4 ♥AJ1096 **♥**82 **♦** K J 6 3 **♣**K Q J 8 **♣**96542 **SOUTH A** K Q 8 7 3 **♥** K 7 3 **♦** 10 9 4 ♣A The bidding: East South North 1 🏚 Pass

Opening lead — king of clubs. Bad luck is not to blame

Assume you're declarer at four spades and West leads the king of clubs. You win with the ace, cash the A-K of spades and finesse the diamond ten, losing to East's jack.

East returns the eight of hearts, and when you follow low, West's nine forces dummy's queen. You cross to your hand with a trump or by ruffing a club and lead the nine of diamonds, finessing again. East wins with the king and delivers the killing blow by returning the deuce of hearts. West cashes two heart tricks, and you go down

You could, of course, claim that you were unlucky. You could argue that West, who entered the bidding, should have had either the king or jack of diamonds.

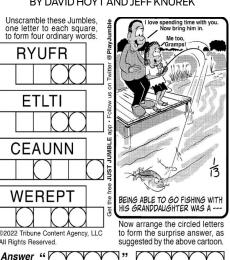
But if you analyze your play objectively, you discover that you misplayed the hand. It wasn't just bad luck that beat you; there was a sure-fire way to make the contract,

and it was not really difficult. When East returned the eight of hearts at trick five, you should have played the king instead of following low. This would have forced West to take his ace, and the contract would then have been secure regardless of what he returned or where the king of diamonds was located.

Thus, suppose West returned the jack of hearts after taking the ace. You'd win with dummy's queen, ruff a club and try another diamond finesse. The finesse would lose, but you would be home free. East would not have a heart to return — he could not really have more than two hearts considering West's heart overcall — and when he returned a club instead, you would ruff and dispose of your heart loser on dummy's fourth diamond.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.

JUMBLE BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK



TODAY'S SUDOKU Complete the grid so each

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PENNY

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(Answers tomorrow)

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Yesterday's















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I asked what kind of family Amina wanted. She said, 'A family like yours.' That's when I knew I had to adopt her.

Denise, adopted 17-year-old Amina



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SPORTS

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UCONN WOMEN 92, BUTLER 47

Huskies look more like old selves in rout

By Alexa Philippou Hartford Courant

This season may be unlike any the Huskies have experienced in some time, but Wednesday's Big East battle at Butler was a good 'ole UConn women's basketball thrashing for the ages.

The No. 10 Huskies shook off a shaky return from their extended COVID-19 layoff on Sunday by demolishing one-win Butler 92-47 in Indianapolis, their second of four games in nine days. The 45-point margin of victory was UConn's largest so far in 2021-22 by 15 points.

"The energy level was great," coach Geno Auriemma told SNY after the game. "The way we played was about as well as we've played in a long time."

In one of its more balanced efforts, five players finished in double figures, three with at least 18. Seniors Olivia Nelson-Ododa and Christyn Williams led the way with 19 points each, a season-high for the former and the most since the Minnesota game for the latter.

Auriemma said he told his seniors after the Creighton game Sunday, "We need more from you guys. You need to perform better." And he thought they did that Wednesday.

"Hopefully this is the beginning of a beautiful thing," Auriemma

Williams had a confidence-instilling game, not just with her scoring but in her impact in other areas. She had a career-high seven steals, along with four assists and seven rebounds and just one turn-

UConn's defense dictated the game, as the Huskies (8-3, 3-0 Big East) forced 27 turnovers which they turned into 43 points. They also scored 24 fast-break points to Butler's zero.

"[The majority of the game], the game was played the way we want it to play, regardless of who the opponent was," Auriemma said. "That's the way we used to play basketball here at Connecticut."

That tone was in part set by sophomore Nika Mühl, who was

Turn to UConn, Page 4



UConn guard Nika Muhl, right, battles for control of the ball with Butler guard Tenley Dowell in the first half Wednesday in Indianapolis. AJ MAST/AP

UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL



CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

THE LATE SHOW

UConn's Isaiah Whaley (5) blocks a shot by St. John's Montez Mathis (23) in the first half of a Big East Conference game on Wednesday night at Gampel Pavilion. The game was not over in time for this edition. Go to courant.com/sports for the result.

GIANTS COMMENTARY

John Mara's defensive stance on family indicates franchise won't change at all

By Pat Leonard New York Daily News

nizations.

NEW YORK - John Mara discouragingly met the media on the defensive Wednesday, acting like he doesn't intend to make meaningful change in one of the NFL's most dysfunctional orga-

He lazily blamed the media for creating the "perception" that

his family members have "undue influence" in the football operation and vehemently denied that characterization.

"Well that perception has been created by you and others," Mara pushed back.

Contradicting Mara's claim, his brother Chris Mara, the Giants' senior VP of player personnel, sat in with co-owners John Mara and Steve Tisch on

Wednesday's first two GM interviews with the Buffalo Bills' Joe Schoen and the Arizona Cardi-

nals' Adrian Wilson. "Chris is in those interviews 'cause he's part of ownership and I value his opinion," said John Mara. "I value his skills and I want him in there. At the end of the day, I'll listen to him, but it will be Steve and myself making the final decision."

RisCassi & Davis

injured for more than 60 years

Protecting the rights of the

Inside

Patriots fully behind rookie quarterback Mac Jones headed into the playoffs. Page 2

Mara made the same statement ("He does not have any authority here," only the GM and head coach) about personnel

Turn to Giants, Page 2

Balkovec embraces being a role model

First woman to manage an American baseball team will helm Yanks' Class-A Tampa Tarpons

By Kristie Ackert

New York Daily News

NEW YORK - Last summer,managing in the Futures Game, LaTroy Hawkins was blown away by Rachel Balkovec's resume. Looking for coaches for the annual event, the former big league reliever thought she was beyond qualified for a hitting coach job



and it was well past time for a woman to be a part of the game that showcases minor leaguers during MLB's All-Star Weekend.

"When she walked in, she was immediately ready to do the job," the former Yankees and Mets reliever said. "She not only had the breakdown on the players on the other team, but on our team. She was confident. She was bilingual. She was able to communicate with the play-

"She is so prepared, she is ready," Hawkins said. "I am so glad to see her get her chance."

Balkovec will get her chance this summer with the Yankees organization to break another glass ceiling. She will be the first woman to manage a team in affiliated baseball when she takes the helm of the low Class-A Tampa Tarpons this

It's another trail the former college softball catcher will blaze after a decade in professional baseball.

"Bias and stereotypes are going to be around forever, but I do think we've made a ton of progress," Balkovec said Wednesday. "I mean, there's gonna be 11 women in uniform next year. Looking back on those days it would have been incomprehensible to understand what the next decade was gonna

look like for myself and for others. "And I do think we've made progress. Not in the numbers, obviously, from 11 women in uniform, but also just the way that people react to me and the way that they talk to me and it's becoming more

Turn to Balkovec, Page 3

R&D

Safety Tip of the Day

Adaptive cruise control will increase or decrease your vehicle's speed based on the pace of traffic ahead, but it may not respond as quickly if another car suddnely cuts over into your lane. Always drive defensively.

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UP NEXT

Patriots: AFC Wild Card at Bills, Saturday, 8:15 p.m. UConn MBB: at Providence, Saturday, 2 p.m.; Butler (XL), Tuesday, 7 p.m.; at Butler, Jan. 20, 9 p.m. **UConn WBB:** Xavier (XL), Saturday, noon; at Oregon, Monday, 5 p.m.; Seton Hall (Gampel), Jan. 21, 7 p.m.

Celtics: at 76ers, Friday, 7 p.m.; Bulls, Saturday, 8:30 p.m.; Pelicans, Monday, 12:30 p.m. Knicks: at Hawks. Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Hornets, Monday, 1 p.m.; Timberwolves, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.

Nets: Thunder, Thursday, 8:30 p.m.; Pelicans, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; at Cavaliers, Monday, 3 p.m. **UConn hockey:** Boston Univ., Friday, 7 p.m.; New Hampshire, Jan. 21, 7 p.m.; New Hampshire, Jan. 22,

Bruins: Flyers, Thursday, 7 p.m.; Hurricanes, Tuesday, 7 p.m.; Hurricanes, Tuesday,

Rangers: at Sharks, Thursday, 10:30 p.m.; at Flyers, Saturday, 7 p.m.; Maple Leafs, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

Wolf Pack: at Providence, Friday, 7 p.m.; Laval, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Toronto, Wednesday, 7 p.m.

TV/RADIO **BASKETBALL**

5 p.m.: Seton Hall at DePaul. (Live) FS1 6 p.m.: Women's College: Virginia Tech at Duke.

(Live) ACC 7 p.m.: Women's College: Texas A&M at South Carolina. (Live) SEC 7 p.m.: Southern Mississippi at Louisiana Tech. (Live) CBSSN 7 p.m.: Ohio State at Wisconsin. (Live) ESPN2 7 p.m.: UNC-Asheville at Winthrop. (Live) ESPNU 7 p.m.: Butler at Georgetown. (Live) FS1 7:30 p.m.: Golden State Warriors at Milwaukee Bucks. (Live) TNT 8 p.m.: Women's College:

Florida State at Georgia Tech. (Live) ACC 8:30 p.m.: Oklahoma City Thunder at Brooklyn Nets. (Live), YES

9 p.m.: Women's College: Tennessee at Vanderbilt. (Live) SEC

9 p.m.: Rice at Western Kentucky. (Live) CBSSN 9 p.m.: Southern Illinois-Edwardsville at Eastern Illinois. (Live) ESPNU 9 p.m.: Indiana at Iowa.

(Live) FS1 9:30 p.m.: Oregon at UCLA. (Live) ESPN 10 p.m.: Portland Trail Blazers at Denver Nuggets. (Live) TNT 11 p.m.: Loyola Marymount at San Francisco. (Live) CBSSN 11 p.m.: BYU at Gonzaga. (Live) ESPN2 11 p.m.: Oregon State at USC. (Live) ESPNU 11 p.m.: Colorado at Arizona. (Live) FS1

6 a.m.: Australian PGA Championship, First Round. (Same-day Tape)

GOLF

7 p.m.: Sony Open in Hawaii, First Round. (Live) **GOLF**

1a.m.: Asian Tour Golf Singapore International Championship, Second Round. (Live) GOLF

HOCKEY 7 p.m.: Philadelphia Flyers at Boston Bruins. (Live) SPRTNET, ESPN 10:30 p.m.: New York

Rangers at San Jose Sharks. (Live), MSG 10:30 p.m.: Pittsburgh Penguins at Los Angeles Kings. (Live) SPRTNET SOCCER 1:55 p.m.: Spanish Super

Cup Soccer Atletico Madrid vs Athletic Club. (Live) ESPN2 2:30 p.m.: Italian Serie B

Soccer Lecce vs Vicenza Calcio. (Live) FSP



Patriots coach Bill Belichick and quarterback Mac Jones have done what many said couldn't be done — rebuild quickly in the post-Tom Brady era. AP FILE

PATRIOTS

Pats fully behind rookie QB Jones

By Kyle Hightower Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Throughout his first NFL season, Mac Jones has been a walking billboard for "The Patriot Way" – keeping his head down, working hard and trying only to do what's asked of him to avoid self-inflicted mistakes.

It has brought successes, such as him leading all rookie quarterbacks this season in wins (10), yards passing (3,801) and touchdown passes (22). Yet, it hasn't kept him entirely immune from the ebbs and flows that inevitably befall every rookie QB.

For Jones, that has meant enduring a 2-4 start, enjoying the spoils of a sevengame win streak and then struggling through three losses in New England's final four games to end the regu-

It also added up to him helping lead the Patriots back into the postseason for the first time since Tom Brady's departure following the 2019 season.

While Jones acknowledges the stakes will be higher Saturday when the Patriots travel to Buffalo for their wild-card matchup with the Bills, for him it's a reminder to cling to the blueprint that has gotten him to this point.

"I think it's all about doing a little bit more, but you've got to stick to what you know and you just have to prepare how you always have, regardless of the situation," Jones said.

Of 19 rookie quarterbacks taken in the first round of the draft since 2013 (with a minimum 10 starts), Jones is the first to finish the season with a winning record. As the only first-round rookie QB headed to the postseason in 2021, he'll also have a chance to become the first rookie QB since Russell Wilson (third-round pick in 2012) to win a playoff game. He'd be the first New England rookie quarterback to do so.

"He just continues to work at everything," Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels said. "I don't think there's one area where I could say, 'Boy, that was the biggest area of growth or improvement.' I think Mac takes in a lot of information. ... Mac is a guy who if you give him five or six things to work on and tweak and improve, he really takes all those things and tries to do the best he can with the practice time we have and what we've asked of him.

"So he continues to do

Giants

from Page 1

influence for his brother Chris and nephew Tim McDonnell, the Giants' co-director of player personnel.

But Mara couched his statement about Chris: "... other than the fact that I will go to him on occasion and ask him about players." He also called McDonnell "probably the

most respected guy we have in this building." And while that is true, and McDonnell is highly regarded, Wednesday's takeaway was that the family will remain steadfastly in charge, involved and less accountable for this franchise's futility than anyone else in

the building, starting with Mara himself. They're digging in their heels when they should be changing their shoes for hiking

Give credit to Mara at least for speaking Wednesday and admitting "I haven't given [fans] any reason to believe" he'll get it right

Co-owner Steve Tisch did not talk and has no plans to do so, outside of Monday's statement that it's an "understatement" to say he is "disappointed."

Tisch should have to answer for coach Joe Judge's firing in particular, because sources say Mara was the one who initially wanted to give the coach a third year, but Tisch pushed to blow it up after failing to achieve a full reset two years ago.

Mara knew that firing Judge after two years saddled by 19-46 GM Dave Gettleman despite hiring him for a long-term rebuild - was not only moving the goalposts on his coach. It was ripping them down.

But Mara conceded in part on Wednesday because, according to sources, many of the GM candidates were wary of not being able to pick their own head coach. Mara admitted as much.

"I just feel given where we are right now, on the verge of bringing in a new general manager, we have to give that person the flexibility to bring in the head coach that he wants," he said. "And I think that was a large part of the decision here in making a change."

That said, it was ridiculous for Mara to claim that this is the most embarrassed he's ever been for his franchise.

"Honestly I would have to say yes, yes it is," Mara said. "I kept thinking during the season that we had hit rock bottom and then each week it got a little worse."

The Josh Brown scandal, the Eli Manning benching for Geno Smith, the hiring of

Gettleman, the summer of DeAndre Baker, the rampant quitting by defensive players in 2017 and 2019. And this is the low point?

This was dumping dirt on Judge's grave, even as Mara called him a "good person" who has "a really good head coach inside"

"Where we are at the moment ... certainly, certainly that is not all due to him," Mara said, in his only acknowledgment of Gettleman's pathetic track record at ownership's direction.

People in the coaching community reacted to Judge's firing by saying look at the Giants, there they go again with their M.O., making promises, firing everyone within two years and starting over to repeat the cycle.

Mara dodged questions about Gettleman's forced retirement (read: firing) but slipped in an acknowledgment that the Giants' last GM hiring process was rushed and disas-

Ya think? The Giants interviewed only four candidates to replace the fired Jerry Reese in December 2017: three from inside the 'family' and Louis Riddick. And they hired Gettleman to run it back with

"I don't want to rush anything," Mara said. "I've made that mistake in the past... I think looking back on our process, I wish it had been a little more extensive and we had seen more people and maybe taken our time a little bit more with it. And we're gonna try not to make that mistake this time.

Mara granted that he "wasn't thrilled" with Judge's Chicago press conference and that the quarterback sneaks in Sunday's season finale "weren't my favorite play calls in the world." But he said neither instance dealt Judge the convincing blow.

We just got to a point where I thought we had dug ourselves a hole so deep that I didn't see a clear path to getting out of it unless we completely blew it up and started all over again with a new general manager and head coach," he said.

Unfortunately, when Mara was asked if he, Chris Mara and his family need to take a step back from the football operation to fix it, Mara indicated that wasn't in the cards.

Well what we need to do is hire the right general manager to oversee the football operations, and that's what this process is about," Mara said. "I mean you make it sound like we're having undue influence on the football operations here."

These are all discouraging signals for prospective GM and head coaching candi**CELTICS 119, PACERS 100**

Boston takes control early, rolls past Indiana behind Tatum, Brown

By Michael Marot Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS -Jaylen Brown scored 34 points, Jayson Tatum added 33 and the Boston Celtics beat the Indiana Pacers 119-100 on Wednesday night.

Boston snapped a six-game road losing streak while beating Indiana for the second time in three days and the fourth straight time.

Myles Turner had 18 points and Domantas Sabonis added 17 points, six rebounds and six assists as the Pacers lost their second straight and eighth in nine games.

After the opening minutes, the Celtics never really gave the Pacers a chance.

Boston quickly took a 10-point lead and kept Indiana at arm's length until the final minutes of the first half, then wasted no time reasserting its dominance in the third quarter. The Celtics scored the first eight points to extend a 54-49 halftime lead to 13 and then made it 68-53 when Dennis Schroder made back-to-back 3-pointers.

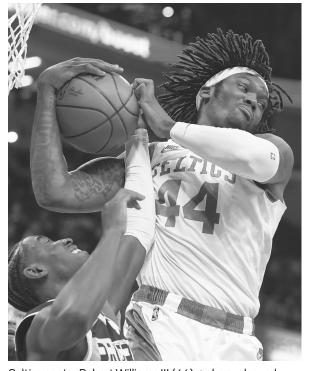
Another 3 from Schroder late in the third made it a 19-point game. Indiana never seriously challenged again.

Tip-ins

Celtics: Tatum also had seven rebounds and four assists while Brown added five rebounds and three assists. Schroder scored 23 points and was 4 for 5 on 3s. ... Brown was 7 for 11 beyond the arc. ... Boston made seven of its first eight 3s and wound up 18 of 38 from beyond the arc. ... The Celtics had only 11 turnovers. ... Starting guard Marcus Smart missed the

game with a bruised right thigh. Payton Pritchard played limited minutes after being cleared through the health and safety protocols. Pacers: Caris LeVert

had 16 points and four assists while Justin Holiday scored 13. ... After missing nine straight games and 10 of the last 11 with a sore right Achilles tendon and in the health and safety protocols, guard Malcolm Brogdon returned to the starting lineup and finished with six points on 3-for-7 shooting. He played 17 minutes. ... One day after signing a second 10-day contract, Lance Stephenson had six points, five rebounds and six assists ... The Pacers were 7 for 36 on 3s and went 13 for 20 on free throws.



Celtics center Robert Williams III (44) grabs a rebound against Pacers guard Caris LeVert during the second half Wednesday in Indianapolis. The Celtics won 119-100. DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

NHL

Reichel set for debut with Blackhawks

Associated Press

CHICAGO - Top prospect Lukas Reichel is slated for his NHL debut when the Chicago Blackhawks host Montreal on Thursday night.

Reichel, 19, was added to Chicago's taxi squad Wednesday after he was recalled from Rockford of the American Hockey League. Interim coach Derek King said he plans to put the young forward in the lineup against the Canadiens.

"Our game plan was to let him get as many games as he can down in Rockford and then eventually bring him up for a couple games and then see how he does and see what we have here and see where he's at," King said, "and then mostly likely be right back down to Rockford to finish and play some more hockey games."

Chicago also removed defenseman Erik Gustafsson and goaltender Kevin Lankinen from COVID-19 protocol. Defenseman Nicolas Beaudin was assigned to the taxi squad, and forwards Kurtis Gabriel, Mike Hardman and Josiah Slavin and goaltenders Cale Morris and Arvid Soderblom were reassigned to Rockford.

Reichel was selected by the Blackhawks with the No. 17 pick in the 2020 NHL draft. He has 11 goals and nine assists in 20 games with the IceHogs.

Reichel, a Nurnberg, Germany, native, was named AHL player of the week on Monday. He had four goals and four assists over his last four games with Rockford.

"He's played well down there," King said. "He's obviously one of our highly skilled prospects coming up. ... Here, this is a chance to do it right by him and I think the process is going to be key and I think it's doing well."

SOCCER HARTFORD ATHLETIC

Club releases 2022 schedule, opens USL Championship season on road against Pittsburgh

Staff report

The Hartford Athletic announced their full schedule for the 2022 season on Wednesday.

Hartford will play 34 USL Championship regular-season matches including 17 home games, 15 of which will be played on a Saturday. Times for matches will

be released in coming weeks. The Athletic start the season on

the road March 19 against the Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC. Hartford plays its second game on the road against the Tampa Bay Rowdies on March 26. Hartford's home opener will take place at Dillon Stadium on April 2 against Atlanta United 2 in the first meeting between the two squads since 2019.

On April 23, Hartford will host Detroit City FC, who are playing their first season in the USL Championship. DCFC spent the past two seasons in the National Independent Soccer Association, Hartford will play eight other opponents for the first time in club history this season, including hosting Phoenix Rising FC (May 28), Las Vegas Lights FC (Sept. 17) and Oakland Roots (Oct. 8) and at FC Tulsa (May 21), El Paso Locomotive FC (June 4), San Diego Loyal SC (June 11), Rio Grande Valley FC (July 27)

and LA Galaxy II (Sept. 5). Hartford will also renew home

and away matchups with a number of Eastern Conference teams for the first time since 2019, including Atlanta United 2, Birmingham Legion FC and Memphis 901 FC. Indy Eleven, who the Athletic last played during the COVID-19 shortened 2020 season, is also on the schedule.

The remainder of the sched-

ule consists of home and away matchups with 2021 Atlantic Division foes Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC, Tampa Bay Rowdies, Miami FC, Charleston Battery, New York Red Bulls II and Loudoun United FC and a rematch with Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC. The Switchbacks will come to Hartford on June 28, one of just two weekday home matches this season.

SCOREBOARD

EASTERN CONI ATLANTIC	w	L	PCT	GB
Brooklyn	25	14	.641	-
Philadelphia	23	17	.561	3
Toronto	20	18	.526	4 1/2
Boston	21	21	.500	5 1/2
New York	20	21	.488	6
SOUTHEAST	W	L	PCT	GB
Miami	26	15	.634	-
Charlotte	23	19	.548	3
Washington	22	20	.524	4 1/2
Atlanta	17	23	.425	8 1/2
Orlando	7	35	.167	19 ½
CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago	27	11	.711	
Milwaukee	26	17	.605	3 1/2
Cleveland	23	18	.561	5 1/2
Indiana	15	27	.357	14
Detroit	9	31	.225	19
WESTERN CON			-	
SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Memphis	29	14	.674	-1/
Dallas	22	18	.550	5 1/2
San Antonio	15	25	.375	12 1/2
New Orleans	15	26	.366	13 17 ½
Houston	11	31	.262	17 72
NORTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Utah	28	13	.683	-
Denver	20	19	.513	7
Minnesota	20	21	.488	111/
Portland	16	24	.400	$\frac{11 \frac{1}{2}}{14 \frac{1}{2}}$
Oklahoma City	13	27	.325	14 /2
PACIFIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Phoenix	31	9	.775	_
Golden State	30	10	.750	_ 1
L.A. Lakers	21	20	.512	$10\frac{1}{2}$
L.A. Clippers	21	21	.500	11
	16	27	.372	$16\frac{1}{2}$
Sacramento				
Sacramento WEDNESDAY'S RE	SULT	5		

Dallas at New York, late Houston at San Antonio, late Brooklyn at Chicago, late L.A. Lakers at Sacramento, late

THURSDAY'S GAMES Golden State at Milwaukee, 7:30p.m. L.A. Clippers at New Orleans, 8p.m. Minnesota at Memphis, 8p.m. Oklahoma City at Brooklyn, 8:30p.m. Portland at Denver, 10p.m.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS Washington 122, Oklahoma City 118 Phoenix 99, Toronto 95 Chicago 133, Detroit 87 Memphis 116, Golden State 108 New Orleans 128, Minnesota 125 L.A. Clippers 87, Denver 85

TENNIS

SYDNEY TENNIS CLASSIC Wednesday at Sydney Olympic Park, Sydney, outdoors-hardcourt MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND 0F 16 #1 Aslan Karatsev d. Miomir Kecmanov

Andy Murrayd. #2Nikoloz Basilashvili, 6-7(4), 7-6(3), 6-3. #3 Dan Evans d. Pedro Martinez, 6-2, 6-3. #4 Reilly Opelka d. Jordan Thompson, #5 Lorenzo Sonego d. Sebastian Baez,

6-2, 6-3. #6 Dusan Lajovic vs. Maxime Cressy,

Brandon Nakashima d. #7 Fabio Fognini, 7-6(7), 7-6(6). #8 David Goffin d. Denis Kudla, 6-2, 6-3.

MEN'S SINGLES, QUARTERFINALS #1 Aslan Karatsev vs. #5 Lorenzo Sonego, late #4Reilly Opelka vs. Brandon Nakashima, late WOMEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 16

#2 Garbine Muguruza d. Ekaterina Alexandrova, 6-1, 7-6(4). #3 Barbora Krejcikova d. Jaqueline Adina Cristian, 6-1, 7-5. #4 Anett Kontaveit d.

Elena-Gabriela Ruse, 6-3, 6-1, #5 Paula Badosa d. Ajla Tomljanovic,

#7 Ons Jabeur d. Petra Kvitova, 6-4, 6-4. Caroline Garcia d. #9 Elena Rybakina,

Belinda Bencic vs. Ocean Dodin,

WOMEN'S SINGLES. OUARTERFINALS #3 Barbora Krejcikova d. Caroline Garcia, 6-0, 6-2

#4 Anett Kontaveit d. #7 Ons Jabeur, 6-4, retired.

ADELAIDE INTERNATIONAL 2 Wednesday at Memorial Drive Tennis Centre, Australia, outdoors-hard MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 16 Thanasi Kokkinakis d. #2John Isner, 6-7(5), 7-6(5), 7-6(4). Thiago Monteiro d. #1Gael Monfils,

6-7(2), 6-3, 1-0, retired. Corentin Moutet d. #8 Marton Fucsevics, 6-2, 6-2 **MEN'S SINGLES, QUARTERFINALS**

Arthur Rinderknech d. #3 Karen Khachanov, 7-6(2), 7-5. #4Marin Cilic vs. Tommy Paul, ate Thiago Monteiro vs. Corentin Moutet,

Hadgo Monten Vs. Corlem Model late

WOMEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 16

#3 Coco Gauff d. Marta Kostyuk,
6-3, 5-7, 6-3.

#4 Tamara Zidansek d.

Maddison Inglis, 6-2, 6-1.

Ana Konjuh d. #6 Marketa

Vondrousova, 4-6, 6-2, 7-6(3).

#8 Liudmila Samsonova d.

Nuria Parrizas Diaz, 6-2, 6-1.

Madison Keys d. Tereza Martincova,
6-1, 6-3. 6-1, 6-3. Lauren Davis d. Jasmine Paolini,

4-6, 6-4, 6-4. Alison Riske d. Anhe Kalinina, 6-1, 6-3. Madison Brengle d. Rebecca Peterson, **WOMEN'S SINGLES. OUARTERFINALS** #3Coco Gauff v.s Ana Konjuh, late #4 Tamara Zidansek vs. Lauren Davis, late Alison Riske d. Madison Brengle,

EASTERN CONFERENCE GP W L OT PTS GF GA 36 24 7 5 53 142 108 38 24 9 5 53 128 110 34 23 8 3 49 116 86 32 19 11 2 40 99 84 37 16 16 5 37 101 125 35 10 19 6 26 92 125 29 9 18 2 20 79 107 34 7 23 4 18 73 123 Tampa Bay Detroit Buffalo

Montreal	34	- /	23	4	18	13	123
METRO.	GP	W	L	ОТ	PTS	GF	GΑ
Carolina	33	24	7	2	50	115	73
N.Y. Rangers	37	23	10	4	50	107	94
Washington	37	20	8	9	49	125	104
Pittsburgh	35	21	9	5	47	116	90
Columbus	34	16	17	1	33	108	122
Philadelphia	35	13	15	7	33	90	119
New Jersey	36	14	17	5	33	105	126
N.Y. Islanders	28	10	12	6	26	64	80

14.1. ISIGIIGCI S	20	10	12	U	20	04	0
WESTERN (0	IFE	RE	NC	Ε		
CENTRAL	GP	W	L	ОТ	PTS	GF	G/
Nashville	37	24	11	2	50	117	99
Colorado	33	22	8	3	47	143	109
St. Louis	36	21	10	5	47	126	98
Minnesota	33	21	10	2	44	122	102
Winnipeg	33	16	12	5	37	99	99
Dallas	32	17	13	2	36	92	94
Chicago	36	13	18	5	31	87	12
Arizona	33	7	23	3	17	72	128
PACIFIC	GP	W	L	ОТ	PTS	GF	G/
Vegas	39	23	14	2	48	138	117
Vegas Anaheim		23 19				138 117	117
	39		13	7			
Anaheim	39 36	19	13 13	7 5	45	117	110
Anaheim Los Angeles San Jose	39 36	19 18 20	13 13 16	7 5 1	45 41 41	117 100	110 94
Anaheim Los Angeles San Jose	39 36 37 33	19 18 20	13 13 16 10	7 5 1 6	45 41 41	117 100 105	110 94 114 83
Anaheim Los Angeles San Jose Calgary	39 36 37 33 34	19 18 20 17 18	13 13 16 10 14	7 5 1 6 2	45 41 41 40 38	117 100 105 104 113	110 94 114 83
Anaheim Los Angeles San Jose Calgary Edmonton Vancouver	39 36 37 33 34	19 18 20 17 18 16	13 13 16 10 14 16	7 5 1 6 2 3	45 41 41 40 38 35	117 100 105 104 113	110 94 114 83 113 100
Anaheim Los Angeles San Jose Calgary Edmonton Vancouver	39 36 37 33 34 35 34	19 18 20 17 18 16 10	13 13 16 10 14 16 20	7 5 1 6 2 3 4	45 41 41 40 38 35 24	117 100 105 104 113 91 95	110 94 114 83 113 100 120

for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS Montreal at Boston, late Seattle at Dallas, late Toronto at Arizona, late Minnesota at Edmonton, ppd

THURSDAY'S GAMES Philadelphia at Boston, 7p.m. Vancouver at Tampa Bay, 7p.m. New Jersey at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30p.m Winnipeg at Detroit, 7:30p.m. Buffalo at Nashville, 8p.m. Seattle at St. Louis, 8p.m. Montreal at Chicago, 8:30p.m Ottawa at Calgary, 9p.m. N.Y. Rangers at San Jose, 10:30p.m. Pittsburgh at Los Angeles, 10:30p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES Dallas at Florida, 7p.m. Anaheim at Minnesota, 8p.m. Arizona at Colorado, 9p.m. Vegas at Edmonton, ppd

TUESDAY'S RESULTS Chicago 4, Columbus 2 Tampa Bay 6, Buffalo 1 Florida 5, Vancouver 2 Nashville 5, Colorado 4, OT Pittsburgh 4, Anaheim 1 Toronto 4, Vegas 3, SO San Jose 3, Detroit 2, OT Carolina at Philadelphia, ppd N.Y. Islanders at Calgary, ppd

GOALS ALLOWEDGATMSAPhilipp Grubauer79SEA668Robin Lehner76VEG797 **SV** 589 721 Connor Hellebuyck 75 WPG 861 786

NFL PLAYOFFS

Monday's Game

WILD CARD ROUND Saturday's Games Las Vegas at Cincinnati, 4:30p.m. New England at Buffalo, 8:15p.m. **Sunday's Games** Philadelphia at Tampa Bay, 1:00p.m. San Francisco at Dallas, 4:30p.m. (CBS)
Pittsburgh at Kansas City, 8:15p.m.

Arizona at L.A. Rams, 8:15p.m. DIVISIONAL ROUND, Jan. 22 -23

NFC low seed at Green Bay, TBD AFC low seed at Tennessee, TBD

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

SUPER BOWL LVI Feb. 13; Inglewood, Calif., 6:30 p.m.

SFASON TAKE-AWAY GIVE-AWAYS

JEASON IA		GIVE AWAI						
	1	ΓΑΚ	E	(SIVE			
AFC	- 1	F	Т	- 1	F	T	T	
Indianapolis	19	14	33	8	11	19	+1	
Buffalo	19	11	30	16	6	22	+	
New England	23	7	30	13	10	23	+	
Kansas City	15	14	29	13	12	25	+	
Houston	17	8	25	15	7	22	+	
Pittsburgh	13	9	22	11	9	20	+	
Denver	13	6	19	9	9	18	+	
Cincinnati	13	8	21	14	7	21		
L.A. Chargers	11	10	21	15	6	21		

14 12 26 14 12 26

Cleveland	13	6	19	14	8	22	- 1
Tennessee	16	6	22	14	11	25	
Las Vegas	6	9	15	14	10	24	-9
Baltimore	9			18		26	-13
N.Y. Jets	7	7	14	20	7	27	-13
Jacksonville	7	2	9	17	12	29	-20
Totals	215	135	350	225	145	370	-20
NFC	- 1	F	Т	- 1	F	Т	TC
Dallas	26	8	34	11	9	20	+14
Green Bay	18	8	26	7	6	13	+13
Arizona	13	14	27	11	4	15	+12
Minnesota	16	8	24	7	6	13	+13
Tampa Bay	17	12	29	13	7	20	+9
New Orleans	19	7	26	13	5	18	+8
Seattle	11			7			
L.A. Rams	19	6	25			23	+2
Philadelphia	12	4	16	10	6	16	(
Detroit	11	8	19			23	
San Francisco	9	11	20	14	10	24	-4
Atlanta	12	8	20	15	11	26	-(
Washington	11		18	15		24	
N.Y. Giants	15			20		30	
Carolina	۵	7	16	21	8	29	-13

Carolina 9 7 16 21 8 29 -13 8 8 16 20 9 29 -13 Chicago **Totals** Totals 226 130 356 216 120 336 +20 I-interceptions; F-fumbles; T-total takeawav/giveaway; TO-turnover margin through Week 18

ODDS

COLLEGE BASK	ETB/	LL THURSDAY
FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG
FGCU	161/2	at Kennesaw St.
at Washington St.	61/2	Stanford
Boston	111/2	at Army
at Appalach. St.	21/2	Coastal Carolina
at La. Tech	19	Southern Miss
at Youngstown St.		orthern Kentucky
North Texas		Marshall
Lehigh	31/2	at Bucknell
American	21/2	at Holy Cross
at Navv	21/2	Colgate
at Niagara	61/2	Canisius
at Fort Wayne		etroit Mercy
at Texas Tech		klahoma State
Wright State	41/2	at Robert Morris
VMI		Mercer
at Wisconsin	21/2	Ohio State
NC Greensboro		The Citadel
at Cleveland State		akland
at Georgetown	11/2	akianu Butler
at Old Dominion	111/2	UTSA
at UAB	16	Florida Int'l
Sam Houston		
	5at	Lamar
at UT Rio Grande		Chicago State
at Texas State		Monroe
at Green Bay	101/2	IUPUI
at Milwaukee	31/2	UIC
at South Dakota		enver
Western Illinois		North Dakota
at Murray State	20	Tennessee State
at Tex Arlington		ı-Lafayette
at N. Dakota St.	10	St. Thomas
S. Dakota St.	15	at OMAHA
at Montana	21/2	Southern Utah
at Weber State	151/2	Idaho
at N. Mexico St.	101/2	Tarleton State
at Iowa	3	Indiana
at W. kentucky	81/2	Rice
at S. Alabama	21/2	Georgia State
SIU-Edwardsville	6	at E. Illinois
at Grand Canyon	5 /	Abilene Christian
at UCLA	101/2	Oregon
UCSB	31/2	at Long Beach St.
UC Riverside	61/2	at Cal Poly
at San Dlego	61/2	Portland
at CSU Fullerton	91/2	CSU Northridge
at Arizona	141/2	Colorado

141/2

at Arizona

at Gonzaga

Colorado

Loyola Marymnt St. Mary's (Cal) 121/2 at Pepperdine at USC 151/2 Oregon State at Hawaii 6 **THURSDAY**

LINE O/U

UNDERDOG

+202

-106

FAVORITE

at Calgary

NY Rangers

at New Orleans off (off) LA Clippers at Memphis at Brooklyn at Denver off (off) Portland **THURSDAY** NHL FAVORITE LINE UNDERDOG at Carolina -285 Columbus at Tampa Bay at Boston -280 Vancouver Winnipeg -134 at Detroit +112 at NY Islanders-176 New Jersey -315 Buffalo at Nashville at St. Louis at Chicago -245 Seattle +198 -194 Montreal +160

Pittsburgh -126 at Los Angeles +105 NFL WILD CARD **SATURDAY** O/U FAVORITE SP UNDERDOG Las Vegas New England at Cincinnati (481/2) at Buffalo SUNDAY Philadelphia at Tampa Bay 81/2 (46) (51) San Francisco at Kansas City 12½ (46) Pittsburgh MONDAY

-250 Ottawa

-113 at San Jose

at LA Rams SUPER BOWL LVI CHAMPION 15-4 Kansas City Green Bay 8-1 Tampa Bay 8-1 LA Rams Buffalo Tennessee 10-1 New England 20-1 San Francisco 22-1 25-1 Las Vegas Philadelphia 65-1 Pittsburgh For the latest odds, go to FanDuel Sportsbook

https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/

COLLEGE BASKETBALL **MEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED**

1. Baylor (15-1) did not play. Next: vs. Oklahoma State, Saturday. 2. Gonzaga (12-2) did not play. Next: vs. BYU, Thursday.

3. UCLA (10-1) did not play. Next: vs. 4. Auburn (15-1) did not play. Next: at Mississippi, Saturday. 5. Southern Cal (13-1)did not play. Next: vs. Oregon State, Thursday. 6. Arizona (12-1) did not play. Next: vs. Colorado, Thursday, 7. Purdue (13-2) did not play. Next: vs. Nebraska, Friday.

8. Duke (13-2) beat Wake Forest 76-64. Next: vs. N.C. State, Saturday. 9. Kansas (13-2) did not play. Next: vs. West Virginia, Saturday 10. Michigan State (14-2) beat Minne sota 71-69. Next: vs. Northwestern, 11. Houston (14-2) did not play. Next: at Tulsa, Saturday.

12. LSU (15-1) beat Florida 64-58. Next: 13. Wisconsin (13-2) did not play. Next: vs. #16 Ohio State, Thursday 14. Villanova (12-4) beat #17 Xavier 64-60. Next: vs. Butler, Sunday. 15. Iowa State (13-3) did not play. Next: vs. #21 Texas, Saturday.

16. Ohio State (10-3) did not play. Next: at #13 Wisconsin, Thursday 17. Xavier (12-3) lost to #14 Villanova 64-60. Next: vs. Creighton, Saturday. 18. Kentucky (13-3) did not play. Next: 19. Texas Tech (12-3) did not play. Next: vs. Oklahoma State, Thursday 20. Seton Hall (11-3) did not play. Next: at DePaul, Thursday.

21. Texas (13-3) did not play. Next: at #15 Iowa St., Saturday. 22. Tennessee (11-4) did not play. Next: at #18 Kentucky, Saturday

WEDNESDAY'S SCORES

Michigan, Friday.

Albany (NY) 57, Mass.-Lowell 47 Anna Maria 73, Norwich 71 Drew 102, Moravian 70 Rhode Island 75, Saint Joseph's 64 Salisbury 102, Penn State-Altoona 81 UMBC 76, NJIT 56 Vermont 98, Stony Brook 65 Worcester Tech 88, Babson 57 Campbell 67, Charleston Southern 52 Duke 76, Wake Forest 64

23. Providence (14-2) did not play. Next: vs. UConn, Saturday. 24. Alabama (11-5) did not play. Next:

25. Illinois (12-3) did not play. Next: vs.

Furman 78, ETSU 69 Gardner-Webb 64, Presbyterian 61 LSU 64, Florida 58 Longwood 83, Radford 75 McNeese St. 120, Arlington Baptist 44 Mississippi St. 88, Georgia 72 NC A&T 67, Hampton 59 Norfolk St. 80, Delaware St. 51 SC-Upstate 66, High Point 65 Tusculum 69, Mars Hill 61 UCF 74, Memphis 64 UNC-Wilmington 73, Elon 66 W. Carolina 70, Chattanooga 59 Wofford 87, Samford 64 MIDWEST

Maldwin Wallace 92, Ohio Northern 65 Michigan St. 71, Minnesota 69 Notre Dame 72, Clemson 56 Villanova 64, Xavier 60

Pomona Pitzer 78, Occidental 66

WOMEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED 1. South Carolina (15-1) did not play. Next: vs. Texas A&M. Thursday 2. Stanford (11-3) did not play. Next: at #22 Colorado, Friday.

3. Louisville (13-1) did not play. Next: vs. Syracuse, Thursday.

4. NC State (14-2) did not play. Next: at 5. Tennessee (15-1) did not play. Next: at Vanderbilt, Thursday. 6. Indiana (12-2) did not play. Next: vs. 7. Arizona (11-1) did not play. Next: at 8. Maryland (12-4) did not play. Next: vs. #11 Michigan, Sunday. 9. Iowa State (15-1) did not play. Next: at Oklahoma State, Saturday.

10. UConn (8-3) beat Butler 92-47. Next: vs. Xavier. Saturdav 11. Michigan (13-2) did not play. Next: at Penn State, Thursday. 12. LSU (15-2) did not play. Next: vs. Missouri, Thursday.

13. Texas (11-2) vs. #25 Kansas State.

14. Baylor (10-4) lost to #23 Oklahoma 83-77. Next: at Kansas, Sunday 15. Georgia Tech (12-3) did not play. 16. Duke (11-2) did not play. Next: vs. 17. Georgia (13-3) did not play. Next: at Missouri, Monday. 18. BYU (12-1) did not play. Next: vs. Saint Mary's (Cal), Thursday.

19. Kentucky (8-4) did not play. Next: vs. Mississippi State, Thursday. 20. Notre Dame (11-3) did not play. Next: at Wake Forest, Thursday.

21. North Carolina (14-1) did not play. Next: at #20 Notre Dame, Sunda

22. Colorado (13-0) did not play. Next: vs. #2 Stanford, Friday 83-77. Next: vs. TCU, Saturday. 24. South Florida (12-4) beat Tulane 75-62. Next: at UCF, Sunday. 25. Kansas St. (13-3) did not play. Next: at Texas Tech. Saturday

FNGI ISH DDFMIFD I FAGIIF

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE							
CLUB	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT
Man City	21	17	2	2	53	13	53
Chelsea	21	12	7	2	45	16	43
Liverpool	20	12	6	2	52	18	42
West Ham	21	11	4	6	39	27	37
Arsenal	20	11	2	7	33	25	35
Tottenham	18	10	3	5	23	20	33
Man United	19	9	4	6	30	27	31
Wolverhampton	19	8	4	7	14	14	28
Brighton	19	6	9	4	20	20	27
Leicester	18	7	4	7	31	33	25
Southampton	20	5	9	6	24	30	24
Crystal Palace	20	5	8	7	29	30	23
Brentford	20	6	5	9	24	30	23
Aston Villa	19	7	1	11	25	30	22
Everton	18	5	4	9	23	32	19
Leeds	19	4	7	8	21	37	19
Watford	18	4	1	13	22	36	13
Burnley	17	1	8	8	16	27	11
Newcastle	19	1	8	10	19	42	11
Norwich	20	2	4	14	8	44	10

WEDNESDAY'S RESULT West Ham 2, Norwich 0

FRIDAY'S MATCH Brighton vs. Crystal Palace, 3p.m.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES Man City vs. Chelsea, 7:30a.m. Burnley vs. Leicester, 10a.m. Newcastle vs. Watford, 10a.m. Norwich vs. Everton, 10a.m. Wolverhampton vs. Southampton, 10 a.m. Aston Villa vs. Man United, 12:30p.m

SUNDAY'S MATCHES Liverpool vs. Brentford, 9a.m. West Ham vs. Leeds, 9a.m. Tottenham vs. Arsenal, 11:30a.m.

U.S. MEN'S SCHEDULE (18-2-2) **q-Jan. 27:** vs. El Salvador, 6:30 p.m **q-Jan. 30:** vs. Canada, 3:05 p.m. q-Feb. 2: vs. Honduras, 8:30 p.m. q-March 24: vs. Mexico, TBD q-March 27: vs. Panama, TBD q-March 30: vs. Costa Rcia, TBD q-World Cup qualifying

U.S. WOMEN'S SCHEDULE s-Feb. 17: vs. Czech Republic, 11 p.m. at Dignity Health Sports Park, Carson, Calif. s-Feb. 20: vs. New Zealand, 3 p.m. at Dignity Health Sports Park, Carson, Calif. s-Feb. 23: vs. Iceland, 9 p.m. at Toyota Stadium, Frisco, Texas s-SheBelieves Cup:



The Yankees named Rachel Balkovec, seen above in 2019, manager of the Low A Tampa Tarpons. Balkovec, 34, is the first female manager in affiliated baseball. GREGORY BULL/AP

Balkovec

from Page 1

normal. It's pretty apparent and it's just exciting to see how much progress we've made. We definitely have a lot of room to grow. But it's really exciting."

Like Hawkins, Balkovec has found that while there is initially some curiosity about her from players at first, they appreciate and respect her work.

"I do feel like they respect me. And at the very least they know that I'm passionate, hardworking, and I know what I'm talking about," Balkovec said. "Whether they like it or not is a different story. And every coach goes through that."

Balkovec was congratulated Wednesday by many of the players that she has worked with over the years, and received words of encouragement from legendary tennis trailblazer Billie Jean King and the commissioner of baseball. She sees her job not just as helping develop the next Yankee stars, but also following in King's footsteps and being a role model for girls and women.

"I don't think you sign your name on the dotted line to do something like this and then say, well, I don't want to be a role model," Balkovec said. "I just don't subscribe to that. People ask why are you on social media and....and it's like, I want to be a visible idea for young women. I want to be a visible idea for dads that have daughters. I want to be out there. And it's just I have two jobs and that's fine.'

"I'm pretty sure Jackie Robinson didn't sign up for his job and then go 'Oh, yeah, I don't want to sign autographs," Balkovec continued. "It's just part of my job."

Entering her 11th year in professional base-

ball, Balkovec, 34, has embraced breaking barriers, something she talks about on social media often. She had already done it when she was named the first full-time hitting coach in an MLB organization in 2019, joining the Yankees at their rookie-level Florida Complex League for the last two seasons.

It was in that role that Balkovec impressed Kevin Reese, who was just promoted to Vice President of Player Development. He brought the idea up to GM Brian Cashman who saw the impact Balkovec could have on the organization.

"She's determined, she's strong, she's got perseverance. She's obviously got a plan where she wants to go, what she wants to do in the present and where she wants to go in the future. And so I would not put any limitations on what her future would entail," Cashman said. "I think she's willing to go to the ends of the earth to accomplish her goals. ... And so this is someone that will not be denied. She is passionate about our sport and wants to make sure that she learns all aspects, including other languages to put her in the best position to impact others."

Balkovec's promotion comes on the heels of Kim Ng being named the first woman general manager in any men's North American professional sport last year, when she was hired by the Marlins.

"On behalf of Major League Baseball, I congratulate Rachel on this historic milestone," MLB commissioner Rob Manfred said in a statement released by the league. "As manager of the Tampa Tarpons, she will continue to demonstrate her expertise and leadership in the Yankees' organization. We wish Rachel well in this new capacity and appreciate her mentorship to the growing network of women in baseball operations and player development roles."

Keith Hernandez pleasantly surprised by team's belated retirement of his number

By Matthew Roberson New York Daily News

NEW YORK - Everything coming from the Mets this offseason seems to be sending a clear message: things are going to be different now.

Whether it's fitting the roster with a former Cy Young winner and multiple All-Stars, bringing in an establishment-type manager or adding a new general manager to work under Steve Cohen's still fresh ownership, the club is hellbent on burying its reputation of dysfunction.

On Wednesday, in the dead of a lockout that's ground most baseball news to a halt, the Mets made another move that fans had been waiting on for years. Keith Hernandez's number 17 is now officially one of the Mets' retired numbers, something that the legendary first baseman-turned-broadcaster said he genuinely thought would never happen.

"I was caught completely off guard," Hernandez said of his reaction to the news. "I don't think bewilderment is the right term, but I do feel like I'm lost in space that this happened to me."

Once he found out, Hernandez tried, and failed,

to tell his family. "I couldn't get a hold of anybody," he chuckled. "No one answered."

The jersey retirement ceremony will happen on July 9 when the Mets host the Marlins at Citi Field. Hernandez, the first captain in the club's history, becomes the fourth player to have their number retired by the Mets. His 17 will hang proudly next to Jerry Koosman's 36, Tom Seaver's 41 and Mike Piazza's 31. Managers Gil Hodges (14) and Casey Stengel (37) have also received the honor.

Buck adds familiar face: Buck Showalter didn't have to go very deep into his Rolodex to find the latest member of his coaching staff.

While the Mets haven't made any of their new coaching hires official yet, Wayne Kirby is expected to be named their first base coach. Kirby was Showalter's first base coach in Baltimore from 2011-18. The move adds another former MLB player to the team's offseason coaching overhaul the Mets are expected to hire Joey Cora as their third base coach and lured Eric Chavez away from the Yankees to be their hitting coach. Pitching coach Jeremy Hefner is the only on-field member to remain

from Luis Rojas' staff.

Djokovic admits travel doc 'error'

News services

Novak Djokovic acknowledged Wednesday that his Australian travel declaration form contained incorrect information, and he also confessed to an "error of judgment" in taking part in an interview and photo shoot in Serbia last month after testing posi-

tive for COVID-19. In a statement posted to his social media accounts, the tennis superstar from Serbia blamed "human error" by his support team for failing to declare that he had traveled in the

two-week period before entering Australia. Giving false information on the form could be grounds for deportation, the latest twist in a saga over whether the athlete should be allowed stay in Australia despite not being vaccinated.

The initial news that Djokovic was granted an exemption to strict vaccination rules to enter the country provoked an outcry and the ensuing dispute has since overshadowed the lead-up to the Australian Open.

The statement was posted while the men's tennis No. 1 was in Rod Laver Arena holding a practice session, his third on the tournament's main court since being released from four nights in immigration detention.

The nine-time and defending Australian Open champion remains in limbo before the year's first tennis major starts Monday. The stakes are particularly high since he's seeking a men's record 21st Grand Slam singles title.

Djokovic's visa was canceled on arrival last week when his vaccination exemption was questioned, but he won a legal battle on procedural grounds that allowed him to stay in the country. He still faces the prospect of deportation – a decision that is entirely at the discretion of Australia's immigration minister if deemed to be in the public interest for health and safety reasons.

College basketball: Georgetown coach Patrick Ewing will miss the Hoyas' game against visiting Butler on Thursday because of what his team said were D.C. Department of Health guidelines. No other details were released. It's supposed to be the second game for Georgetown since it had four in a row postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ewing, 59, was hospitalized in May 2020 after testing positive for COVID.

NBA: Trail Blazers All-Star G Damian Lillard plans to have surgery to address a lingering abdominal injury, ESPN reported. A final decision on the procedure and the timeline are expected to be determined after consultations with doctors this week. The procedure is likely to keep the 31-year-old Lillard out at least 6 to 8 weeks. He last played on Dec. 31.

Olympics: U.S. prosecutors charged Eric Lira, 41, of El Paso, Texas, with providing performance-enhancing drugs to athletes competing in last summer's Olympics in Tokyo, including Nigerian start sprinter Blessing Okagbare. Lira is the first person to be charged under a new U.S. anti-doping law governing international sports competitions. Okagbare had been provisionally suspended for testing positive for human growth hormone in July 2021 — in an out-of-competition test — just hours before the former world championships silver medalist was due to run in the semifinals

of the women's 100 meters at the Olympics.



UConn guard Christyn Williams shoots over Butler guard Tenley Dowell in the first half Wednesday in Indianapolis. AJ MAST/AP

UConn

from Page 1

all over the place defensively and started her first game of the season in place of Evina Westbrook. The redshirt senior came off the bench for the first time in her UConn career.

Auriemma said that he wanted to start Mühl, who is still on a minutes restriction, so that UConn didn't need to wait to take advantage of her defensive impact while her playing time is limited. He added that he's been concerned with the lack of productivity from his reserves, but that Westbrook can now bring that by coming in off the bench.

Westbrook finished with 13 points and went 3-7 on 3s. Mühl didn't attempt a shot but collected three rebounds, dished out five assists, came away with one steal and picked up just one foul in 17

minutes.

Freshman Caroline Ducharme scored at least 14 points for the fifth time in six games, finishing with 18. Sophomore Aaliyah Edwards was the final Husky in double figures with 12 points, while freshman Amari DeBerry played a season-high 17 minutes and sophomore Piath Gabriel scored her first points of the season.

UConn scored the first nine points of the game and never looked back, leading 25-9 after the first period at which point Ducharme had nearly singlehandedly outscored the Bulldogs with eight points of her own — and later 48-19 at the half.

Five players had at least seven points apiece by halftime, but the Huskies' smothering defense stood out most. Butler had nearly as many turnovers (15) as points (19) at the half, which UConn turned into 25 points.

It was more of the same

from there, with UConn outscoring Butler 29-12 in the third quarter.

Next up for the Huskies is a Saturday afternoon matchup versus Xavier at the XL Center.

Griffin update

UConn announced prior to the game that junior Aubrey Griffin will miss the rest of the season after undergoing back surgery on Monday, which Auriemma had suggested might be the case last week. Griffin never played this season, at first dealing with a high-ankle sprain in the preseason that kept her out early before a disk issue in her back ultimately precluded her

Her expected recovery time is four months, the school said.

Alexa Philippou can be reached at aphilippou@ courant.com

UCONN 92, BUTLER 47							
UConn	М	FG	FT	RB	Α	PF	PT
Williams	31	8-18	0-0	7	4	1	19
Nelson-Ododa	25	8-10	2-4	7	5	3	19
Ducharme	28	6-13	3-3	2	0	3	18
Juhasz	24	3-5	2-4	5	1	1	9
Muhl	17	0-0	0-0	3	5	1	0
Westbrook	25	5-9	0-0	2	4	0	13
Edwards	27	5-10	2-3	7	1	2	12
Gabriel	5	1-4	0-0	1	0	1	2
DeBerry	18	0-7	0-2	1	5	0	0
TOTALS	_	36-76	9-16	40	25	12	92

Three-point goals: 11-34, 32.4(Westbrook 3-7, Ducharma 3-8, Williams 3-10, Nelson-Ododa 1-2, Juhasz 1-3, DeBerry 0-4). FG pct.: 47.4. FT pct.: 56.3. Team rebounds: 5. Turnovers: 7(Ducharme 2, Juhasz 2, Muhl 2, Williams). Blocks: 4(Ducha-(Williams 7, Nelson-Ododa, DeBerry). Steals: 19 (Williams 7, Nelson-Ododa 3, Juhasz 3, Edwards 2, DeBerry 2, Muhl, Westbrook).

Butler	М	FG	FT	RB	Α	PF	PT
Taborn	29	6-8	1-1	6	0	3	13
Sexton	29	4-11	0-0	1	0	1	6
Dowell	35	2-6	1-1	7	1	3	6
Wingler	29	1-6	0-0	5	2	0	3
Jaynes	23	0-4	0-0	4	1	3	0
Jackson	22	3-8	2-2	3	4	2	9
Ross	11	1-3	1-2	1	1	3	3
Richard	17	1-3	0-0	4	0	0	2
Stoddard	5	0-1	0-0	0	0	1	0
TOTALS	- 3	18-50	5-6	35	9	16	47

101ALS — 18-50 5-6 35 916 4/ Three-point goals: 6-26, 23.1 (Sexton 3-8, Dowell 1-5, Jackson 1-5, Wingler 1-6, Taborn 0-1, Ross 0-1). FG pct.: 36.0. FT pct.: 83.3. Team rebounds: 4. Turnovers: 27 (Jackson 6, Sexton 5, Jaynes 4, Dowell 3, Wingler 3, Stoddard 2, Team 2, Taborn, Ross). Blocks: 0. Steals: 4(Wingler 3, Ross).

Butler	9	10	12	16 —	47
Officials: Enterline, Tobir	ı, Cı	eech	ı. Atl	t.: 2,772	at
Hinle Fieldhouse, Indiana	apol	lis, In	ıd.		

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UConn

UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Indiana high school junior Shade commits to UConn

By Alexa Philippou Hartford Courant

Hours before the UConn women's basketball team took on Butler in Indianapolis, the Huskies already scored a win in the Hoosier State.

Noblesville, Indiana, guard Ashlynn Shade, the No. 5 ranked player in the class of 2023 per ESPN, is headed to UConn, she announced via social media Wednesday morning.

Shade, who visited Storrs this past weekend and was at UConn's game against Creighton on Sunday, joins point guard KK Arnold as the Huskies' class of 2023 commits thus far.

Shade's final eight schools included Indiana, Louisville, North Carolina, Notre Dame, Stanford, Tennessee and Vanderbilt.

"I like the history behind [UConn] and how competitive their basketball program was and currently still is," Shade told The Indianapolis Star in August. "I want to play at a high level, so I like that aspect of it." According to the Indy Star, Shade was offered by UConn in July.

Premier Basketball's Shane Laflin describes Shade as a 5-foot-10 comboguard who can lead an offense but also score the ball herself. He adds that her pull-up jumper with elevation is "arguably the best in the country in terms of consistency." Laflin said Shade has expanded her shooting range throughout her high school career but is also strong around the rim.

It's the intangibles that stand out most to Laflin. He says her competitive spirit and edge remind him of current UConn sophomore Nika Mühl.

"She is the ultimate competitor," Laflin said. "When you're talking about translating to the next level, not just skills and talent gets it done. She's got a maturity to her approach to the game and her player development that I think is going to really serve her well. It has already, and it just sets her apart. And that's not just basketball stuff. Her conditioning, her strength, you can tell she works on her body. Having experienced it before you get to the next level

is going to serve her.
"That tough, gritty, serious competitor, figure-it-out type, find a way to win, that's Ashlynn Shade."

As a junior at Noblesville this year, Shade is averaging 20.8 points, 9.1 rebounds, 4.2 assists and 3.9 steals through 18 games. She is UConn's second incoming player from the state of Indiana, alongside 2022 signee Ayanna Patterson, who is from Fort Wayne.

Shade and Patterson actually faced off on the high school circuit in November, with Shade's Noblesville team beating Patterson's Homestead, 69-48. Patterson guarded Shade at times and finished with a team-high 24 points, while Shade tallied a game-high 25 points on 17 shots, going 4-for-7 on 3s.

"Every time I see her I'm like, 'Wow, she's awesome," Shade said of Patterson, according to the Star. "It was super great to play against her again. It was great matchup, great competition."

"[Shade's] game has grown a lot since her freshman year. It's crazy," Patterson added. "Hopefully one day she is bleeding blue at UConn. She's a great player

and I hope to play with her one day." With the commitments of Arnold and Shade in November and January respectively, the Huskies' future is coming into focus. Between a gritty backcourt capable of scoring but also setting up their teammates for success in Arnold and Shade, plus the physicality that Patterson and fellow 2022 signee Isuneh "Ice" Brady bring in the front court — not to mention Patterson's "ridiculous" athleticism — UConn is not just amassing talent but putting pieces together.

"That's certainly what's happening here," Laflin said.

Alexa Philippou can be reached at aphilippou@courant.com

WINTER OLYMPICS

US, Canada women are eager to resume fierce hockey rivalry

Associated Press

Forward Brianna Decker was unable to contain her enthusiasm in being selected to represent the United States in hockey for a third Olympics. She then bluntly declared the team's one and only objective heading to the Beijing Games next month.

"Our business isn't finished until we come back with a gold medal," Decker said.

Though she didn't have to say it, Canada – who else? - is standing in their

"I don't know if it's unfinished business, we've got business," Canada coach Troy Ryan said when informed of Decker's comments. "We're going there as business as usual and we're trying to win the gold."

One of sports' fiercest rivalries is set to resume when the 10-nation tournament opens on Feb. 3.

The United States is the defending Olympic champion after beating Canada in a nail-biting 3-2 shootout win in South Korea in 2018 to end Canada's run of four Olympic titles. And yet, Canada is the reigning world champion after punching back with a 3-2 overtime win in August to end USA's run of five consecutive titles.

"Yeah, it's been a while since we've lost to them," Decker said. "It's really a sad thing, but you know, sometimes you've got to lose to get a little bit more out of your team and out of yourself." "To be honest," coun-

tered Canada's captain Marie-Philip Poulin, "it's going to be fun."

And intense.

It was no surprise to anyone when the pushing, shoving and cross-checking resumed almost immediately at Allentown, Pennsylvania, in October in their first meeting after the world championships.

"Yeah, and you know what the best part is? We have them eight more times," American forward Kendall Coyne Schofield said with a laugh, referring to what was supposed to be a nine-game Rivalry Series. It was cut to six games after the Canadians experienced a COVID-19 breakout.

Canada finished the shortened series going 4-1-1 against the Americans, with four games decided by one goal, and three in overtime.

Encouraging as the results were, they meant little to Ryan, who noted: "If you look at the history of these events and the results at the Olympics, there's no positive correlation often.

At first glance, Canada appears to have the advantage with speed and experience, playing an up-tempo, transition attack Ryan introduced upon taking over in August 2019. His system places an emphasis on play-making defenders turning up ice and finding open players in the neutral zone to set up odd-man breaks.

The U.S. relies more on a puck-control offensive style to set up in-close chances from Hilary Knight and Alex Carpenter, who returns after being left off the 2018 roster. Barring what would be

considered a major upset, the rest of the field continues playing catchup at the women's level, with Finland, Switzerland, Russia and potentially the up-and-coming Czech Republic vying for bronze.

The Finns beat Switzerland to win bronze at the world championships. At the 2019 world championships on home soil, Finland upset Canada in the semifinals and came a disallowed goal in overtime away from beating the Americans before settling for the silver.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

No. 14 Villanova holds off No. 17 Xavier, 64-60

Staff and wire reports

CINCINNATI — Collin Gillespie scored 21 points, Justin Moore had 16 and No. 14 Villanova held off No. 17 Xavier 64-60 on Wednesday night.

Moore, the reigning Big East player of the week, scored 10 points in the second half to help the Wildcats (12-4, 5-1 Big East) win their fifth straight.

It was the second consecutive big game for Gillespie, who had a season-high 28 points Saturday in a victory over DePaul.

Paul Scruggs and Nate Johnson each scored 15 for Xavier (12-3, 2-2), which trailed by double digits in the second half before rallying.

Villanova had a scoring drought of more than six minutes, helping the Musketeers get back in the game. Scruggs hit two key 3-pointers, including one that tied the score at 56 with 2:16 left.

But the Musketeers

missed too many opportunities at the rim, including a layup attempt by Scruggs that would have tied it with 16 seconds to go.

Villanova, responsible for two of the Musketeers' three losses this season, dominated the first half.

It was an ugly start for both teams, who were a combined 3 for 16 from the field early. But when Villanova began to heat up, Xavier didn't.

The Musketeers shot 28% in the first half while going 2 for 12 from 3-point range.

Villanova got 14 points from Gillespie and 12 from Eric Dixon to build a 38-27 halftime lead. The Wildcats outscored Xavier 24-15 in the paint and had 12 second-chance points in the first half.

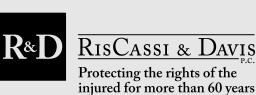
Xavier trailed by 10 with 14 minutes left before Johnson's 3-pointer cut the deficit to seven and woke up the sellout crowd. But the Wildcats answered every Musketeers run.

Did you know?

If you drive after being awake for 24 hours straight, your response times are as impaired as someone just over the legally allowed blood alcohol level.

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NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

Safety plan: Rams lure back Weddle



Two-time All-Pro safety Eric Weddle is coming out of retirement to rejoin the Rams for the playoffs. Weddle turned 37 last week, and he hasn't played in the NFL since the 2019 season, but the Rams signed him to their practice squad Wednesday to address their

glaring need at safety. Leading tackler Jordan Fuller is out for the playoffs with an ankle injury, and fellow starting safety Taylor Rapp is in the concussion protocol. Weddle retired in February 2020 after one season with the Rams in which he made 108 tackles and called the defense's signals. The LA-area native spent his first 11 NFL seasons with the San Diego Chargers and Ravens before his year with the Rams. The NFC West champion Rams (12-5) return to practice Thursday ahead of their visit from the Cardinals (11-6) on Monday night. The Rams were off Wednesday, but Cardinals coach Kliff Kingsbury noted Weddle's surprising comeback. "He must be living a lot healthier lifestyle than I was after I retired," Kingsbury said. "He was a fantastic player a couple of years ago. ... If anybody can do it, there's no doubt he can."

3-time Series champ Lester retires



Jon Lester, a durable left-hander who won three World Series titles during 16 years in the majors, announced his retirement. Lester, who turned 38 on Friday, finishes with a 200-117 record and a 3.66 ERA in 452 career games, including 451 starts. He also has been a

reliable postseason performer, compiling a 2.51 ERA in 26 appearances. The 6-foot-4 Lester helped the Red Sox win the championship in 2007 and 2013, and led the Cubs to the title in 2016. The championship for the Cubs was the franchise's first since 1908. Lester's first big league season was cut short when he was diagnosed with lymphoma. He underwent chemotherapy and returned to the majors in July 2007, helping the Red Sox to the AL East title by going 4-0 with a 4.57 ERA in 12 games down the stretch. He then delivered in the postseason, pitching 5 1/3 scoreless innings in the Red Sox's World Series-clinching victory. Lester signed a six-year, \$155 million contract with Cubs after the 2014 season. He shared NLCS MVP honors with Javier Báez on the way to the Cubs' historic championship in 2016.

Simpson excited to start new year



Webb Simpson has been on the PGA Tour long enough and won enough to not be in a hurry. The former U.S. Open champion was no less eager to fly to the middle of the Pacific for one week at the Sony Open. Even so, there was something about late last year he wanted to

put behind him. Outside of the majors (Simpson has been eligible for all of them the last 10 years.), there are three places he wanted to be — East Lake for the Tour Championship, Whistling Straits for the Ryder Cup and Kapalua for the Tournament of Champions. Missed all three of them. "Those are my favorite events," Simpson said. "So I felt like I needed to put in some extra work in the offseason, and it feels great. So I feel like my game is in a good spot, and I fully believe my best golf is ahead of me." Simpson turned 36 last year, and he keeps getting the most of his game. The Sony Open was too good for him to pass up. Waialae is among his favorite courses on tour with its tight, winding fairways and flat, pure greens. He has finished no worse than fourth, including last year when he wound up two shots behind Kevin Na.

NFL INSIDE THE NUMBERS

After record in '20, scoring drops back By Josh Dubow | Associated Press The NFL's steady increase in offensive production took this season off. The average points per game for teams dropped from a record 24.8 in 2020 to 23 this season as improved defense, some quarterback-related COVID absences, more holding calls and visiting teams dealing with crowds likely made

biggest single-season decline since the merger, behind only the 2.0 points per game from 1976 to 1977. The scoring awas more back in line in what it was before

The drop of 1.8 points per game per team was the second

the pandemic-impacted 2020 season. The NFL averaged 22.8 points per game per team from 2013-19.
Passer rating dropped from 93.6 to 90.8, the 5.43 yards

per play were the second-lowest in eight seasons.

But the biggest impact might have been with penalties, which increased 18% per game for offenses this season as teams were penalized 36% more often per game for holding and nearly 10% more often for false starts.

Grounded

an impact.

Even the addition of a 17th game couldn't provide a boost to number of 1,000-yard rushers in the NFL.

Because of injuries, COVID-19 absences and teams relying more on the pass than ever, only Jonathan Taylor, Nick Chubb, Joe Mixon, Najee Harris, Dalvin Cook, Antonio Gibson and Ezekiel Elliott topped the 1,000-yard rushing mark this season.

That tied the previous low from a 16-game season of seven 1,000-yard rushers in 1991 and 2015.

Late-game heroics

The 272nd and final game of the 2021 regular season ended in appropriate fashion as the Raiders won their record-tying fourth overtime game on a walk-off field goal by Daniel Carlson in a 35-32 win over the Chargers.

That was the record 34th game decided by a game-winning score on the final play this season with the Raiders accounting for a record six of them. Carlson had the game-winning kick in five of those games.

The 49 games with with a game-winning score in the final minute of regulation or in overtime tied the 2013 and 2015 seasons for the most ever.

Terrific Tampa

Tom Brady showed no signs of slowing down at age 44, leading the NFL in yards passing (5,316) and touchdowns (43), breaking Drew Brees' record with 485 completions. Brees had 471 in 2016.

Brady had his second 5,000-yard passing season, joining Brees as the only players to do that more than once. Brees did it five times.

Brady also helped two of his Bucs teammates hit milestones as receiver Mike Evans became the first player to top the 1,000-yard receiving mark in his first eight seasons and Rob Gronkowski had his 32nd career 100-yard game, breaking the mark for tight ends held by Tony Gonzalez.

Triple crown

Rams receiver Cooper Kupp completed the rare feat of winning receiving's triple crown.

Kupp became the fourth player since the merger to lead the NFL in receptions (145), yards receiving (1,947) and TD catches (16). Kupp joined Jerry Rice (1990), Sterling Sharpe (1992) and Steve Smith Sr. (2005) as the only receivers to do that since 1970.

When it comes to the receiving triple crown, Packers Hall of Famer Don Hutson is the true king, having won it five times in the 1930s and 40s.

Kupp's 1,947 yards receiving were the second most in season, 17 shy of Calvin Johnson's record set in 2012 and his 145 catches were four shy of the mark set by Michael Thomas in 2019.

Kupp's 11 100-yard games were tied with Michael Irvin (1995) and Johnson (2012) for the most in a season.

New Yuck, New Yuck

The Jets and Giants finished off another rough season by each losing their 13th game, setting a record for the most combined losses in a season for New York's teams.

The 26 losses are one more than the teams combined for in 1996 when the Jets went 1-15 and the Giants went 5-11. The two franchises are tied for the worst record in the NFL over the last five seasons at 22-59.

Easy street

The Eagles became the eighth team in the last 20 seasons to get into the playoffs despite failing to win a single game against another playoff team.

The Eagles lost all six games against playoff teams, while going 9-2 the rest of the season.

The last team to do it was the 2016 Lions, who then lost their first playoff game. Of the other six teams to do it in the last 20 seasons, only the 2008 Chargers and 2004 Vikings broke through with a postseason win.



Quarterback Ben Roethlisberger has indicated that he's likely to retire at the end of the Steelers' season. PATRICK SMITH/GETTY

NFL PLAYOFFS

Super send-off on tap?

Steelers hoping to give Big Ben magical final run

By Will Graves Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — There was no speech. No galvanizing moment.

There didn't really need to be one. The Steelers knew the 2005 playoffs would be the last go-round for Jerome Bettis. The star running back didn't need to point out the Super Bowl that year was in his hometown of Detroit. Or that a ring was the only thing missing on his Hall of Fame resume. Or that the pain from a loss to the Patriots in the AFC championship game a year before provided the main motivation for "The Bus" to return for a 13th and final season.

Ben Roethlisberger was just 23 back then. A second-year quarterback in the nascent stages of a career that will almost certainly end with his bust being placed alongside Bettis' in Canton, Ohio.

While the exact details of that run that started with a wild card-round win over the Bengals and ended with Roethlisberger and Bettis embracing on the confetti-strewn Ford Field with the Lombardi Trophy in tow are foggy, the vibe pulsating through the locker room during that ride remains fresh.

"I wanted to go win for Jerome, because you know what he meant," Roethlisberger said.

The better part of two decades later, the 39-year-old Roethlisberger finds himself in the same position — the

franchise icon eyeing one last ride. The symmetry isn't lost on him. Like the 2005 Steelers, the 2021 version enters the playoffs as the AFC's last seed. So the 2021 version also would need to navigate three road games to reach the Super Bowl; that starts Sunday in Kansas City, Missouri, as the Steelers (9-7-1) face the surging AFC West-champion Chiefs (12-5).

Is this group trying to win one for Big Ben the same way the 2005 team did for Bettis? Roethlisberger, who has given every indication he will not return in 2022, believes they all want to win. He's not sure how much his presence plays a part in that motivation.

The first of his two Super Bowl titles was a long time ago, even longer for the vast majority of a roster. Only a handful of players are in their 30s.
"These guys were what, in middle

school or elementary school when that was going on?" Roethlisberger said with a laugh. And while it would easy for Roethlisberger to lean into nostalgia, he's

well aware the circumstances between 2021 and 2005 only go so far. That group included four future Hall of Famers, an offense ranked in the top half of the league and a defense that finished third.

This group — with its minus-55 point differential, its rookie-laden offense and a defense that has gotten pushed around with alarming ease at times — isn't like that one.

"I don't want to take away from this team, but that was a pretty good football team," Roethlisberger said. "We had some Hall of Famers on it and stuff. Not that we don't have some really good football players here, but we have a long way to go to compare ourselves to that team in my opinion."

A string of upsets, starting against the defending AFC champion and heavily favored Chiefs, would go a long way toward closing the gap. The Chiefs drilled the Steelers at Arrowhead Stadium last month, and Steelers coach Mike Tomlin admitted his team got "smashed."

Three weeks later the Steelers head back as a 13-point underdog after a mixed bag of a regular season in which they rarely looked good, even in victory. Much of the year was a slog. Roethlisberger played behind an inexperienced and at times overwhelmed offensive line. The defense struggled to overcome the loss of nose tackle Tyson Alualu in Week 2, and the absence of defensive end Stephon Tuitt, who didn't play a down after undergoing knee surgery over the summer.

"We probably are not a very good football team," Roethlisberger said. "Out of 14 teams that are in, we're probably at number 14."

Probably. Yet Sunday night offers a chance, which is more than the 18 teams whose season is over can say.

There's so much at stake personally for a team with so many unknowns heading into the post-Roethlisberger era. So the idea of winning for the only guy in the locker room who already has two Super Bowl rings is kind of outdated at best, quaint at worst.

But it's also a sign of respect.

"Everybody kind of knows what's going on," right guard Trai Turner said. 'You know, we want to win it for him, for sure, 100%. And you want to win for yourself, you know? So that's just added motivation.

"You know you're going out there for

a guy who gives his all."



A A A A Mixed clouds and sunshine. South

wind around 5 mph. LOW 27

windy and

Mostly cloudy, seasonable.

FRIDAY

ക ക ക

ні**G**н **36**° Partly sunny, colder.

LOW

breezy and much

SATURDAY

Sunshine in the morning, increasing afternoon 4° cloudiness.

SUNDAY

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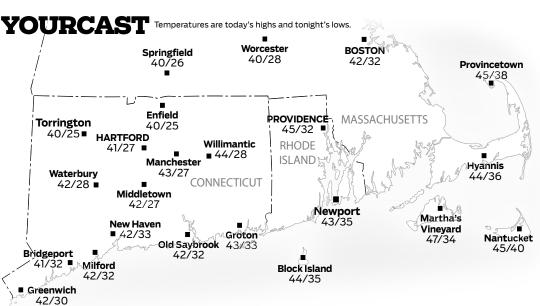
19

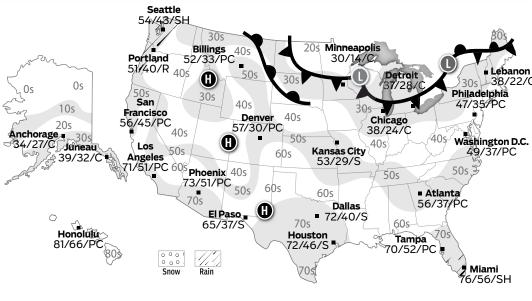
<u>유</u>유 Early snow or a wintry mix turning 39 to rain, windy. LOW

MONDAY

LOW **22°**







OUTLOOK

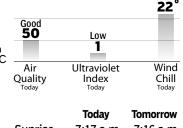
A mixture of clouds and sunshine on Thursday with highs in the 40s, then an arctic cold front will approach on Friday and that combined with a storm system offshore will result in gusty north winds. Peak gusts up to 35 mph are possible. A couple isolated snow showers or flurries can't be ruled out with the frontal passage during the late afternoon and the evening. Bitter cold will settle in from Friday night to Saturday night. It will be windy Friday night and Saturday resulting in wind chill values of 15 to 25 degrees below zero, which is 10 to 15 degrees colder than this last arctic outbreak. -Gary Lessor

ALMANAC

Precipitation In Inches Total Normal Yesterday (by 7 p.m.) 0.00 0.11 Month to date 0.97 1.34 Total this year 0.97 1.34 Snowfall In Inches Yesterday (by 4 p.m.) 0.0

Total this year 9.6 17.5 Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks

Air Quality Forecast For Today



	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise	7:17 a.m.	7:16 a.m.
Sunset	4:42 p.m.	4:43 p.m.
Moonrise	1:16 p.m.	1:52 p.m.
Moonset	3:42 a.m.	4:43 a.m.

Moon Phase							
i ull n 17	Last Jan 25	New Feb 1	First Feb 8				

-	/ Precipit	tation Histo	ory In Inc	hes
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Tides	High	Low	Temp.
N.L. State Pier	6:14 a.m.	a.m.	41°
	6:31 p.m.	12:57 p.m.	
Saybrook Jetty	7:25 a.m.	12:51 a.m.	40°
	7:42 p.m.	1:50 p.m.	
Connecticut River	10:08 a.m.	4:37 a.m.	
at Portland	10:25 p.m.	5:36 p.m.	
Madison	7:30 a.m.	1:08 a.m.	40°
	8:02 p.m.	1:55 p.m.	
New Haven	7:50 a.m.	1:32 a.m.	38°
	8:22 p.m.	2:19 p.m.	
Stamford	7:54 a.m.	1:46 a.m.	41°
	8:26 p.m.	2:33 p.m.	

River Stage at Hartford: 4.62 feet at 5:30 p.m.

Boating	L.I. Souna W	L.I. Souna E	B. I. 200Na
Weather	PCloudy	VCloudy	VCloudy
Wind	SW/E, 5	SW/S, 5	SW/S, 5-10
Seas	1 ft.	1 ft.	2-3 ft.

Temperature	High	Low
Wednesday	38 at 2:54 p.m	6 at 1:30 a.m
Normal for date	35	19
Record for date	70 in 2020	-14 in 1981
A year ago	39	16
Range this year	52	4

AROUND THE WORLD Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

Nashville

New York

Okla. City

Omaha

Orlando

San Diego

33 16 C

37 22 C

38 19 SF

61 42 PC

44 30 C

39 25 C

66 42 PC

66 47 PC

36 21 C

75 59 PC

41 27

New Orleans

NEW ENGL Bangor Burlington Caribou Concord Montpelier Mt. Wash.	33 19 C 32 19 C 21 13 C 39 22 PC 33 19 C	Baltimore Bismarck Boise Buffalo Charleston Cincinnati Cleveland Indianapo Jacksonvil Las Vegas
Portland Woods Hole	19 13 C 37 25 PC 45 33 PC	
NATION		Miami Re

ffalo arleston ncinnati eveland lianapolis ksonville s Vegas ami Beach Milwaukee

Albuquerque 59 34 PC Atlantic City

Pittsburgh 43 28 C Raleigh 53 34 PC 51 30 PC St. Louis Beiiing Salt Lake City 48 29 PC Beirut San Antonio

66 49

43 32 PC WORLD 69 37 Cancun 50 28 Amsterdam 45 36 PC Dubai Dublin 73 48 PC Athens 43 36 C 91 72 PC Bangkok Edinburgh 84 70 S Barbados Helsinki 37 19 S Hong Kong 67 55 SH Istanbul 75 43 43 41 Berlin Jerusalem 72 54 PC Bermuda 68 64 SH 49 34 PC KEY: S Sunny, C Cloudy, PC Partly Cloudy, R Rain, SH Showers, SN Snow, SF Snow Flurries, T T-storms

73 48

San Juan

Tucson

40 32 PC Budapest Madrid Buenos Aires 102 75 Mexico City 66 49 PC Milan 78 62 S Montreal 77 64 Moscow 39 34 Nassau 47 43 С New Delhi 43 30 PC Paris 68 59 PC Prague 36 30 SN 57 46 PC Rome Johannesburg 79 57 Seoul

F Ja

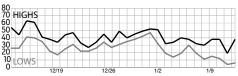
Kingston Lisbon

London

Stockholm 43 34 PC 59 41 PC Svdnev 84 70 SH 50 32 PC Toronto 34 14 SF Vancouver 37 36 SH Warsaw Weather page produced by WESTERN CONNECTICUT UNIVERSITY

Last

Heating Degree Days Season Normal Season For July 1 - Jan 12 2356 2248 2617 30-day Temperature History



Atmosphere High Low 30.45 at 12 a.m. 30.03 at 2 p.m. Barometer -3° at 12 a.m. Dew point 17° at 4 p.m.

TUESDAY'S LATE HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

BOYS BASKETBALL

CCC-Inter RHAM 79. AVON 57

AVON (4-3): Jadd Eldah 0-1-1, Isaac Aguilar 6-3-17, Tyler Brokenshire 6-0-15, Aidan Srb 4-0-12, Nishant Gopalachar 0-1-1, Emmett Borenstein 1-1-3. Totals

RHAM (8-0): Jimmy Hulland 6-1-16, Troy Miller 3-1-8, Ryan Heneghan 4-2-11, Spencer Pilkington 8-0-17, Mike Poncini 3-1-7, Aiden Allen 7-0-14, Matt Fraleigh 0-6-6. Totals 31-11-79.

13 13 8 23 - 57 24 17 20 18 - 79

WINDSOR 70, EAST CATHOLIC 66 (OT)

WINDSOR 76, EAST CATHOLIC 66 (67) WINDSOR (5-1): Raymond Rodriguez 1-0-2, Tyler Betsey 11-2-29, Kaiden James 2-1-5, Quintin Floyd 1-2-5, Rashawn Tibby 7-0-15, Tone Williams 2-1-6, Prince Samuels 0-2-2, Jhonny Pierce 3-0-6. Totals

EAST CATHOLIC (4-2): Rob Elliott 3-0-6, Luke Reilly 2-1-5, Allyn Wright 6-2-18, Sam Reilly 8-7-27, James Jones 2-2-6, Leondre Sanchez 1-0-3. Totals 22-12-66. W

14 21 21 8 6 70 22 21 7 14 2 - 66 EC Shoreline VALLEY REGIONAL 49, WESTBROOK 25

WESTBROOK (3-4): Brandon Naccarato 5-3-13, Joev Caslin 1-1-4, Jesse Whitney 1-1-4, Sam Freeman 0-2-2, Evan McIntyre 0-0-0, Justin Whitney 0-2-2. Totals 7-9-25. VALLEY REGIONAL (4-3): Di'Angelo Jean-Pierre

2-0-4, Simon Partyka 0-1-1, Andrew Yermenson 1-0-3, Sam Hutchinson 3-1-7, James Marsden 5-3-14, Saagar Patel 6-3-16, Brayden Shea 1-0-2. Totals 18-10-49.

8 1 12 4 - 25 W 10 12 10 17 - 49

GIRLS BASKETBALL

PLATT 47, BRISTOL CENTRAL 35 PLATT (7-3): Vianna Alcantara 1-2-4, Kamani White

1-0-2, Kaylani Cruz 0-0-0, Khrystina Campbell 7-3-17. Antwanette Tann 9-6-24. Totals 18-11-47. BRISTOL CENTRAL (0-6): Leilani Jackson-Mills 1-2-4, Ella Watson 1-1-3, Brooke Watson 3-0-6, Lillian Sirois 3-4-10, Madison Pikiell 1-0-2, Callie Lodovico 3-3-9. Totals 12-10-34.

11 2 14 20 - 47 7 8 9 10 - 34

Note: Tann had a double-double with 18 rebounds.

NEWINGTON 61. BERLIN 32 BERLIN (3-4): Jenna Wenzel 0-4-4, Janessa Yaconi-ello 1-1-3, Ava Desmaurice 0-3-3, Rylee Cop 2-2-6, Clare McGeever 1-0-2, Emma Ellison 2-2-6, Kailee DeMaio 2-4-8. Totals 8-16-32.

NEWINGTON (9-0): Lilly Ferguson 6-2-14, Adriana Romano 5-1-13. Marlie Zocco 2-0-6. Arianna Barnes 2-0-4, Ella Stair 2-2-8, Bela Cucuta 4-0-11, Brianna Gadarowski 2-0-5. Totals 23-5-61.

10 10 2 10 - 32 17 13 16 15 - 61

Note: Ferguson scored her 1,000th career point and had 5 rebounds, 3 assists, 2 steals. Miller had 5 rebounds, 3 steals. SIMSBURY 52. WETHERSFIELD 37 WETHERSFIELD (2-3): Maia Berdebes 0-2-2, Sophie

Adams 1-0-2, Vanessa Venditti 4-4-15, Alexa Grenier 4-0-8, Eliza Polmatier 0-1-1, Alison Wagner 2-0-4, Mackensie Mori 2-0-5. Totals 14-6-37. SIMSBURY (8-1): Lauren Sabia 11-4-31. Kate Perlitz 0-0-0. Olivia Jarvis 6-1-13, Alex Peterson 0-0-0,

Amanda Gallagher 2-2-8. Totals 19-7-52. 9 7 9 12 - 37 w 17 7 15 13 - 52

Note: Jarvis and Gallagher each had 10 rebounds. Sabia's 31 points were the most for a Simsbury player since 2014. **FARMINGTON 46. NEW BRITAIN 37** NEW BRITAIN (1-3): Adrianna Faienza 2-0-4,

Kiatvanna Denmark 1-3-5, Xandra Silva 2-2-8, Lavla Mejia 3-0-9, Jamily Carter 0-3-3, Kaylee Cahill 3-0-8. FARMINGTON (6-2): Daria Fournier 5-0-14. Macken-

zie Campbell 4-0-8, Reshma Palanivel 1-2-4, Anna Loughman 2-0-4, Avery Anderson 0-4-4, Abby Finn 1-0-2. Sarah Bertolette 5-0-10. Totals 18-6-46.

NB 16 5 7 9 - 37 14 14 8 10 - 46

ENFIELD 62, AVON 47

AVON (1-5): Sophie Mango 4-5-14, Gianna Godbout 3-0-8, Sophia DiBella 0-2-2, Lindsey Arigoni 2-0-5, Erin Geary 2-1-5, Claire Cawley 2-1-5, Lucy Belval 3-2-8. Totals 16-11-47.

ENFIELD (7-1): Taylin Byers 0-2-2, Madilyn Archer 2-0-4, Anjaleah James 1-0-3, Alyssa Rossignol 11-9-31, Amyah Rosado 7-3-17, Megan Marcotte 2-1-5. Totals 23-15-62.

9 15 8 15 - 47 18 16 17 11 - 62

NCCC **GRANBY 46. EAST GRANBY 12**

GRANBY (4-3): Fem Jansen 6-2-18, Sam Rijkse 3-0-6, Maeve Dingley 1-0-3, Layla Bolduc 1-0-2, Kayla Davis 2-2-6, Alyssa Bordonaro 4-0-9, Kenzie Garceau 1-0-2. Totals 18-4-46. EAST GRANBY (0-5): Melina Betts 1-0-2, Sarah

Springer 0-1-1, Ava Guyer 1-0-2, Taylor Hayes 0-4-4, Chloe Rapose 0-1-1, Aishani Nagamalla 1-0-2. Totals

17 10 7 12 - 46 1 0 4 7 - 12 EG

SOMERS 50, SUFFIELD 42 SOMERS (5-1): Sydney Cassidy 3-1-7, Deidre Dalessio 3-0-8, Devon Dalessio 3-1-9, Eliana Wood 6-3-16, Grace Majowicz 4-2-10. Totals 19-7-50. SUFFIELD (2-2): Jordan Dion 5-4-19, Lexi Mailloux 2-3-7, Olivia Matthews 2-0-4, Cami Bosco 3-2-8, Ava

Toomey 0-2-2, Cam Bernier 1-0-2. Totals 14-11-42. 7 9 14 20 - 50 7 11 12 12 - 42

Shoreline

VALLEY REGIONAL 65, WESTBROOK 38
VALLEY REGIONAL (5-0): Ava Cunningham 2-0-4, Abby Bradbury 8-5-26, Bitzy Klomp 3-0-6, Olivia Cunningham 9-0-18, Lily Grow 1-3-5, Sharmel Rivera 1-0-2, Regan Grow 2-0-4. Totals 26-8-65. WESTBROOK (4-3): Adrianna Stranieri 0-2-2, Sadie Susi 4-0-10, Jami Sacco 5-9-20, Alex Zanzalari 1-4-6,

Gianni Salisbury 0-0-0. Totals 10-15-38. 15 11 19 19 - 65 4 19 9 6 - 38

WEDNESDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

BOYS BASKETBALL

CCC-Inter MANCHESTER 62, HALL 42

HALL (1-7): Makyle Ramos 1-0-2, Amecca Freeman 4-1-10, Ixael Albino 2-0-4, Angelo Culmo 1-1-3, Harris Berson 1-0-2, Spencer Berson 2-0-4, Nick Udell 1-0-2, Joe Dooley 5-3-13, Colin McGann 1-0-2.

Totals 18-5-42.
MANCHESTER (4-2): Ta'liek Davis 5-2-12, Laquonne Thames 2-2-7, Troy Butler 6-2-18, Jared Lindstrom 1-0-2, Jermaine Robinson 1-2-4, Adrian Parker 1-0-3, Lucas Ryan 1-1-3, Taber Marineau 1-0-3, Jaydei Cersosimo 1-0-3, Vinny Cavallo 3-0-7. Totals 22-9-62.

12 1 16 13 - 42 17 15 12 18 - 62

BRISTOL CENTRAL 70, EAST HARTFORD 47

Shoreline OLD SAYBROOK 62, PORTLAND 54

STAFFORD 41, ROCKY HILL 36 STAFFORD (3-1): Logan Briggs 2-0-4, Issac Minaya 2-1-5, Mark McLaughlin 3-1-7, Zack Donovan 7-4-20, Collin Gudeman 2-1-5. Totals 16-7-41. ROCKY HILL (0-8): Jayden Osei-Tutu 8-2-18, Casey Robinson 1-1-4, Yazdan Aftbab 2-1-5, Grant Fishberg 0-2-2, Shiv Ghutadaria 1-0-2, Tyler Carlstrom 2-0-5.

Totals 14-6-36. 0 7 15 19 - 41

18 1 11 6 - 36 **UNIVERSITY 73, HMTCA 48** UNIVERSITY (5-0): Norman Harris 6-2-14, Yousif Abdelgadir 5-2-12, Chauncey Reid 2-0-4, Ka'Ron Wright 3-0-7, Sam Dzwonchyk 1-0-3, Jon Chris-

tian 2-0-4, Makinton Dophin 2-0-6, Emmanuel Ikechukwu 5-2-15, Nazaire Lindsey 1-0-2, Shalik Ceasar 2-2-6. Totals 29-8-73. HMTCA (2-5): Seth Moore 1-1-3, Christian Smith 5-1-13, Derrick Sheets 3-0-8, Hector Couvertier 6-1-13, Marcus Calderon 1-0-2, Russell Smith 2-1-5, Jayden Cruz 2-0-4. Totals 20-4-48.

> 17 17 20 15 - 73 14 13 13 8 - 48

BLOOMFIELD 73, GRANBY 64 BLOOMFIELD (5-0): Dallas Rose 1-0-2, Jaysean Williams 5-3-13, Howard Simpson 13-3-31, Shane Bell 1-0-3, Cayden Smith 1-0-2, Lake Mclean 4-1-11, Devion Kerr 4-2-11. Totals 29-9-73.

GRANBY (5-1): John Bell 1-0-2, Josh brown 6-4-18, Justin Phillips 7-0-19, Ralph Rossi 3-1-7, Jack Steele 1-0-2, Declan Lynch 3-0-9, Liam Heinze 2-2-7. Totals

20 14 19 20 - 73

GIRLS BASKETBALL

COGINCHAUG 56, HALE-RAY 16 COGINCHAUG (5-1): Sophie Farr 1-0-2, Serena Fournier 2-0-4, Katie Farr 4-0-11, Mia Poturnicki 4-0-8, Natalia Smith 3-0-6, Allison Strang 0-2-2.

Goetz 1-1-3, Gabby Aguilera 2-2-6, Kenzie Purdell 0-0-0, Nicole Sikorski 3-1-7. Totals 6-4-16.

23 12 15 6 - 56

CTC

MERCY (4-2): Avery Kohs 6-2-14, Sophie Hedge 3-2-9, Kate Donlan 3-0-8, Ava Giansiracusa 3-3-9, Melina Ford 3-0-6, Winnie Ciccarello 1-0-3, Lily Bella Gonzalez 1-0-2. Totals 21-8-57. SHEEHAN (4-2): Reilly Hunter 3-2-8, Darla Jayrose Molly Smolenski 4-0-12, Camryn Jambor 0-2-2.

4 22 5 16 - 57 15 13 3 8 - 39 М

ROCKY HILL (5-3): Lily Margiotta 2-0-4, Nicole Polites 1-0-2, Alyssa Gau 4-4-12, Kate Oostendorp 1-0-2, Maleena Muzio 1-0-2, Angelina Daley 1-0-2, Christina DeNovellis 6-2-14, Christina Garcia 3-3-9.

Linares 0-0-0, Enaijah Gilbert 1-0-2, Angie Solomon 1-0-2, Calibe Simpson 1-0-3. Totals 4-0-9.

RH 10 16 12 9 - 47 Of note: DeNovellis and Garcia each had 6

rebounds.
TERRYVILLE 26, GOODWIN TECH 21

GOODWIN TECH (4-4): Avalise Hernandez 1-1-4, Tomoya Bennett 1-0-2, Ericka Aponte 0-3-3, Megan Lukaszewski 4-1-10, Mariela Cartegena 1-0-2. Totals

TERRYVILLE (2-5): Morgan Slevinsky 1-0-2, Zoe Zappone 1-8-10, Grace Daly 3-0-6, Allison Drake

GT

8 1 6 11 - 26 **HMTCA 43, UNIVERSITY 23**

UNIVERSITY (1-4): Nylah Rogers 6-5-17, Tierah Childs 2-0-4, Ja'Nyra Foreman 0-0-0, Nyrra Hutchin-son 1-0-2, Nariyah Lindsay 0-0-0. Totals 9-5-23. HMTCA (2-5): Nyasia Pitts 12-0-25, Jazlyn Vega 2-0-5, Michelle Sharp 2-0-4, Destini Jones 3-0-6,

SMSA (1-7): Aiyana Brown 6-2-14, Mia Candelario 1-0-3, Aniya Encarnacion 0-0-0, Charis Krevalin 1-0-2, Wairoby Hiraldo 6-2-14. Totals 14-4-33. CIVIC LEADERSHIP (2-3): Gabby Tinsley 3-0-7, Faith Ramos 0-0-0, Gio Shaw 3-2-8, Shaniqua Thomas 9-0-19, Ariell Cuyler 3-2-11. Totals 18-4-45. OLD LYME 43, LYMAN MEMORIAL 28

Totals 12-4-28. OLD LYME (4-2): Ava Roth 1-0-2, Kate Walsh 6-1-14, Melanie Warren 1-0-2, Ali Kyle 0-0-0, Alexis Fenton

6-1-14, Megan Loflin 5-1-11. Totals 19-3-43. WINDHAM TECH 41, TOURTELLOTTE 25 HARTFORD PUBLIC 63, CLASSICAL 33

BOYS HOCKEY

ENFIELD CO-OP 7, NORTHEASTERN 4

LYMAN HALL 65, WILCOX TECH 41

Cailyn Smolley 2-0-4, Jackie Kelly 1-0-2, Chloe Shafir 6-2-17. Totals 23-4-56. HALE-RAY (0-5): Kayla Bartolotta 0-0-0, Jackie

VINAL TECH 26, CHENEY TECH 23 PRINCE TECH 47, WILCOX TECH 28

Schoonmaker 1-1-3, Caelyn McMahon-Egan 1-0-3, 2-2-6, Madison DiPasquale 1-2-4, Liv Cassasse 2-2-7,

ROCKY HILL 47, WEAVER 9

WEAVER (5-3): Jasmine Cardona 1-0-2, Nicole

0-0-0, Avery Owens 3-2-8. Totals 8-10-26.

Deysha Rivera 0-0-0, Annika Jones 1-0-2, Mariah Albert 0-1-1. Totals 20-1-43. CIVIC LEADERSHIP 45, SMSA 33

LYMAN MEMORIAL (3-5): Kasey Cook 3-2-8, Jenny Lopez 2-0-4, Kassidy Latour 0-0-0, Phoebe Carpen-ter 6-1-13, Kayla Holt 1-0-2, Juliana Haynes 0-1-1.

Goals: E-Declan Higgins (2), Luke Arsenault (2),

CCC-South

Wolf Pack fall to Charlotte 2-1 in overtime

91 75 PC

HARTFORD Grigori Denisenko scored two goals, including the winner at the 1:52 mark of overtime, to lift the Charlotte Checkers to a 2-1 AHL win over the Hartford Wolf Pack on

Weather Center

Wednesday night at the XL Center. After a scoreless first period, Hartford's Austin Rueschhoff got

on Friday at 7:05 p.m.

Jack Mikan-Jones, Gavin Higgins, Logan Humiston M—Patrick Frommer, Conor Johnson, Tyler Szedga, Landon Bell. Saves: E—Tommy Terhune, 16 N—Ryan Murphy, 24. Rec.: E—2-4 N—0-7.

SCC/SWC XAVIER 1, NOTRE DAME-FAIRFIELD 0 (OT)

GIRLSHOCKEY

SIMSBURY 4, AVON CO-OP 2 WRESTLING

CCC-East RHAM 42, E.O. SMITH 36

CCC-West SIMSBURY 75, CONARD 6

NCCC ROCKVILLE 52, COVENTRY 24

BOYS SWIMMING CCC-Inter **SOUTHINGTON 87, EAST CATHOLIC 71** Note: Alex LeClair (200/500 free), Landon Colby (200 IM/100 breast) and Matt Niro (50 free/100

back) were all double winners for Southington THURSDAY'S HIGH

SCHOOL SCHEDULE ALL GAMES AT 6:45 P.M. UNLESS NOTED

BOYS BASKETBALL CCC-South: Bristol Eastern at Platt, 6:15 p.m.;

Middletown at Berlin CCC-West: Southington at Glastonbury; Farmington at Conard; Avon at Hall CCC-Inter: Maloney at Hartford Public, 5:15 p.m. NCCC: East Windsor at SMSA, 5:15 p.m.; Ellington

CTC: Ellis Tech at Prince Tech, 7 p.m. SCC: Cheshire at Amity, 7 p.m.; Hand at Foran, 7 p.m.
ECC: Bacon Academy at Waterford, 7 p.m.

Others: Haddam-Killingworth at Wheeler, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLSBASKETBALL CCC-**South:** Platt at Bristol Eastern, 5:30 p.m.; Plainville at Lewis Mills, 6 p.m.; Maloney at Bristol Central; Berlin at Middletown

CCC-West: Northwest Catholic at Simsbury:

at Farmington NCCC: Ellington at Rockville CRAL: Capital Prep at Achievement First, 5:30 p.m.; MLC at Aerospace, 6:15 p.m.; Parish Hill at Classi-ECC: Bacon Academy at Woodstock Academy, 6

Others: Civic Leadership at Bloomfield, 5:15 p.m.:

Glastonbury at Southington; Hall at Avon; Conard

Portland at Suffield, 6:30 p.m.; Enfield at Windsor **BOYS HOCKEY**

Others: Cheshire at Wethersfield, 6:05 p.m.

GIRLS HOCKEY Others: New Canaan at Amity co-op, 4 p.m.

WRESTLING

SCC: Foran at Hand, 7 p.m. Others: Cheshire at Morgan, 7 p.m.

TRACK AND FIELD Shoreline: League Meet No. 2 (Floyd Little AC, New Haven), 5 p.m.

the Wolf Pack on the board with

his fourth goal, at 18:56 of the second period. Denisenko tied the game, beating Hartford goalie Francois Brassard at 10:28 of the third. The Wolf Pack, losers of four of their last five, play at Providence

- Staff report

BOYSSWIMMING

TUESDAY'S LATE **COLLEGE RESULT** MEN'S BASKETBALL

SCC: Lyman Hall/Coginchaug at North Haven co-op.

TRINITY 86, MITCHELL 72 **WEDNESDAY'S COLLEGE**

RESULTS MEN'S BASKETBALL ST. JOHN'S AT UCONN, LATE

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

UCONN 92. BUTLER 47 ELMS 64, ST. JOSEPH 60 WRESTLING **TRINITY 34, NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE 13**

THURSDAY'S COLLEGE **SCHEDULE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

Fairfield at Niagara, 2p.m. St. Peter's at Quinnipiac, 6p.m.

AHLSTANDINGS Atlantic OTL SOL PTS PCT Springfield 31 18 10 39.629 39.629 2 2 2 3 2 5 10 Hershey Hartford 31 18 Providence 26 13 1 0 30.577 Charlotte 29 15 12 32,552 27 9 35 12 27 9 25 .463 31 .443 Lehigh Valley 16 3 4 31.443 14 1 3 22.407 L OTL SOL PTS PCT Bridgeport North 25 19 29 18 3 11 3 0 24 12 27 11 10 9 0

W-B/Scranton Utica 41 .820 36 .621 Rochester Toronto Laval 26.542 Cleveland 29.537 24 11 10 Syracuse 14 0 0 26.481 L OTL SOL PTS PCT 5 1 1 46.793 9 1 1 38.655 Belleville 27 13 Central GP W Chicago 1 1 4 Manitoba 29 18 Grand Rapids 28 13 10 31.554 Rockford 13 17 13 2 2 3 28.483 Iowa 29 12 32 13 2 Milwaukee 28,438 25 8 **GP W** L OTL SOL PTS PCT 5 2 1 45 776 **Pacific** Stockton 29 21 Ontario 26 16 Henderson 26 15 33.635 Bakersfield 25 11 28.560 Colorado

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

25.500

24.480

25 11 11 11 12 2 3 2 1

25 10

TORONTO 4, BELLEVILLE 2 CHARLOTTE AT HARTFORD, LATE

28 12 15

BRIDGEPORT AT HERSHEY, LATE UTICA AT ROCHESTER, LATE **SYRACUSE AT LAVAL, LATE** MANITOBA AT MILWAUKEE, LATE GRAND RAPIDS AT CHICAGO, LATE TUCSON AT SAN JOSE, LATE STOCKTON AT HENDERSON. LATE

Tucson

Abbotsford

San Diego

San Jose

FLAVOR

A treasured treat

Colorful king cake is more than a dessert — it's the flavor of New Orleans

By Kayla Stewart The New York Times

NEW ORLEANS -When Dominick Lee was in elementary school in the 1990s, every year for Twelfth Night, the teacher would bring a king cake for the class to share.

He and his classmates would wait for their slices decorated with purple, gold and green sugars eager to see which piece had a tiny plastic baby hidden inside.

Whoever found it was responsible for bringing another king cake to school the next week, and the cycle would continue through Carnival season, right up until Mardi Gras.

"It was a really wonderful childhood memory, and it's stuck with me to this day," said Lee, a chef born and raised in New Orleans.

Nearly every New Orleanian has a similar story. King cake is a treasured sweet, and a beloved Carnival tradition.

And in New Orleans, where Catholicism is still the predominant religion, Twelfth Night, celebrated here on Jan. 6, holds deep significance.

The date — also known around the world as **Epiphany or Three Kings** Day — marks the moment when the three Magi, or kings, reached the baby Jesus in Bethlehem.

Celebrations vary, but in New Orleans, Twelfth Night is also the start of the pre-Lenten Carnival season, a cycle of baking and eating king cakes, with the arrival of many plastic babies.

King cakes are revered in New Orleans, so much so that it's considered sacrilegious to eat one before Jan. 6. Until the 18th century, king cake was largely eaten only on that day, to signal the end of the Christmas season.

In the early 1900s however, some Carnival krewes (as parade organizers are known) like the Twelfth Night Revelers began to host balls, where they served king cake, selecting the "king" or "queen" based on which guest found the small trinket, or fève, hidden in the

"King cake season is this really communal experience that I think defines Mardi Gras New Orleans in general," said Matt Haines, the author of "The Big Book of King Cake," an archive of some of the city's tastiest cakes.



A king cake from Dominick Lee, a chef born and raised in New Orleans. **BEATRIZ DA COSTA/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

Caramelized apple king cake

Though there are many versions of king cake, New Orleanians often trace their best memories back to their local bakery. Such is the case for Creole chef and New Orleans native Dominick Lee. His recipe was inspired by childhood memories of king cakes with apple filling served in the city's Gentilly neighborhood.

Makes: 12 to 16 servings Total time: 6 hours For the filling:

3 medium Granny Smith apples (34 pound), peeled, cored and cut into 1/2-inch wedges

½ packed cup brown sugar 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour 1 tablespoon unsalted butter 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon ¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg

1/4 teaspoon ground cloves For the dough:

1 (1/4-ounce) packet active dry yeast (2 teaspoons) ¼ cup warm water

3 tablespoons plus 1 ½ teaspoons

4 tablespoons unsalted butter, plus more for greasing the bowl ½ teaspoon fine salt

1 cup sour cream

1 large egg 3 cups all-purpose flour, plus more as

Egg wash (1 egg mixed with 1

tablespoon water), for brushing the dough

1 plastic baby, for decorating For the frosting:

4 ounces cream cheese, at room temperature

4 tablespoons unsalted butter, at room temperature 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract

¼ teaspoon orange blossom water 3 cups powdered sugar 2 tablespoons whole milk or heavy

Purple, gold and green sparkling sugar or edible glitter sprinkles, for

1. Make the filling: Place apples, brown sugar, flour, butter, lemon juice, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves and ½ cup water in a large saucepan and stir well. Bring to a simmer over high heat. then reduce heat to medium and cook, stirring frequently, until tapples are completely softened but still retain their shape, about 25 minutes. Watch carefully near the end and stir as the mixture will begin to stick to the pan as it caramelizes. Set aside. 2. While the apples cook, prepare

the dough: In a small bowl, mix yeast,

warm water and 11/2 teaspoons sugar. Set aside to allow yeast to become active and foamy, 5 to 10 minutes.

3. In a medium saucepan, combine butter with salt and remaining 3 tablespoons sugar and melt over medium-low heat, about 4 minutes. Whisk in sour cream until incorporated. Remove from heat and let cool slightly, 5 to 7 minutes.

4. In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, combine butter mixture, yeast mixture, 1 egg and 1 ½ cups flour. Beat on medium-low speed until smooth. Gradually add remaining 1 1/2 cups flour and continue to mix until a

5. On a floured work surface, knead the dough by hand, adding more flour if needed, until the dough is elastic and smooth, 5 to 12 minutes. It should be sticky but not sticking to the surface. Butter a large bowl and place dough inside. Cover and let rise in a warm place until it has doubled in size, 1 to 1 1/2 hours.

6. Gently punch down the dough. transfer it to a floured work surface, and roll it out into a 24-by-12-inch rectangle. Be gentle so as to not tear the dough. Spread the apple filling on one long side of the dough to cover half of the dough, leaving a 1-inch border along the edges. Starting with the long side closest to you, fold the border over the filling and tightly roll up the dough in a spiral, enclosing the apple filling as you go. Carefully transfer the roll seam-side down to a large parchment paper-covered baking sheet. Moisten ends with water, then bring both ends together to form a ring. Cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled in size. about 1 hour. While the dough rises, heat oven to 350 degrees.

7. Brush the egg wash all over the cake. Bake until golden brown, 25 to 30 minutes. Let cool for 2 hours before frosting.

8. While cake cools. make the frosting: In a mixing bowl or the bowl of an electric mixer, combine the cream cheese, butter, vanilla and orange blossom water. Mix slowly by hand or with a hand or stand mixer until well combined, then gradually add the powdered sugar and mix until incorporated. Continue mixing while slowly adding the milk, 1 tablespoon at a time, to thin out the frosting. The frosting should be thin enough to spread, but not too runny. 9. Carefully flip the cooled cake and cut a small X in the bottom of the ring. Insert the plastic baby and flip the cake back over. Frost the cake and decorate with alternating stripes of gold, green and purple sprinkles.

Pizza night takes a surprising turn when it's scooped, not sliced

By Laura Rege TheKitchn.com

This pizza and mac and cheese mash-up recipe is perfect for those times when you just can't choose. It's decadent and over the top in all the right ways, but mainly it's just downright deli-

cious. And just like pizza, it can be topped with whatever you like. We went with pepperoni, but the customization potential is endless.

What is the key to supercreamy and cheesy mac and cheese? A proper cheese sauce! Start by making a bechamel sauce (cooking butter, flour and milk

until thickened), then reduce the heat to low and add the cheese slowly, stirring in small handfuls at a time, to ensure you get the perfect melt.

Make ahead of time

Prepare the recipe up until it goes into the oven. After the macaroni and cheese mixture has been scraped into the baking dish and topped with the sauce, cheese and pepperoni, cover the baking dish with a lid or tightly with plastic wrap and refrigerate until ready to bake.

What kind of pasta should I use?

Any medium-sized dry pasta works in place of the cellentani or cavatappi. Penne or rigatoni are great options. Or you could switch it out for smaller, more iconic mac and cheese shapes like elbow or shells.

Turn to Pizza, Page 2

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A graze board is all about the condiments

By Katie Workman Associated Press

If you have dipped into Pinterest even briefly over the past few years, you know that graze or grazing boards are A Thing. Beautiful boards or platters are filled with all kinds of food ready to be sampled, snacked up, nibbled and, OK, grazed.

It's a nice way to entertain, or to offer up a room-temperature meal for your family during game nights, movie nights or what have you. It's also perfect for a party, a way to provide a beautiful assortment of nibbles before a late

Graze boards generally include a variety of cheeses, cured meats, nuts, vegetables and fruits, fresh or dried. On the side or tucked into the board itself: sliced bread, crackers, chips.

And here's where things get really interesting: condi-

Mustards, spreads, pestos. But don't just think savory; sweet is really nice, especially when paired with cheeses. Jams, jellies and honeys make perfect pairings for much of what's on offer. Also, olives, pickles and marinated vegetables of all kinds offer a tangy crunch and briny flavor in between bites of cheeses and charcuterie.

Spreadable condiments play nicely against cured meats like prosciutto and salami, or cheeses ranging from sharp cheddar to a creamy triple creme cheese.

Spread some on a cracker or a slice of bread, stack on some meats and/or cheeses, and away you go.

The mixing and matching is what makes graze boards so much fun. Every bite is customized. It's a great way to try new flavors and experiment with different taste combinations.

And when you are traveling, this is a great way to bring home a taste of your trip. I always buy jams, pestos, chutneys, etc., to play with back in my home



A variety of cheeses, spreads and cured meats are displayed on a graze board. Olives, pickles and marinated vegetables of all kinds offer a tangy crunch and brinev flavor in between bites of cheeses and charcuterie. KATIE WORKMAN/AP

kitchen or to keep on hand for gifts. Everywhere you travel, you'll find products that are locally made and that make use of the ingredients and spices of the region.

Jams and jellies

Janie Q is a small-batch jam company run by the folks at Back in the Day Bakery in Savannah, Georgia, and their handmade flavors include Cherry Plum and Peach Lavender. Coo Moo out of California makes jams such as Apricot Habanero (sweet plus heat) and Peachy Mango Madness. Trade Street Jam Co. makes flavors like Smoked Yellow Peach. Strawberry Chipotle and Fig. and Sour Cherry Ginger. Fior di Frutta from Italy makes organic fruit spreads, like fig, blackberry and cranberry.

Beyond sweet jams and jellies, look for caramelized onion jams, pepper jellies and the like. Terrapin Ridge makes a Hot Pepper Bacon Jam, a Jalapeno Hatch Chili Jam, and other unique sweet and savory combos. There are a number of caramelized onion jams out there that buddy up nicely to everything on a graze board: Try the ones from Divina,Williams-Sonoma and Jammy Yummy.

Olives

The world of olives is worth highlighting, though technically it might not fall directly under "condiments." Divina has a ton to choose from: Greek olives stuffed with spicy blue cheese, feta or garlic, or pitted kalamata or green olives They also have

tapenades, like their Olive Bruschetta with Capers and Roasted Red Peppers, or their Muffuletta Olive Salad with cauliflower and pepperoncini. Their chopped Calabrian Peppers and Roasted Tomatoes are also worth noting.

Spreads

There are so many interesting spreads out there that are great to swish onto a cracker or a toasted slice of baguette.

Bellisari's in Ohio makes fun spreads like one with Blue Cheese, Honey and Shallots, or a Blistered Jalapeno and Fig Spread. Coro, a specialty cured-meat producer out of Seattle. makes interesting offerings like Plum Mustard, Giardiniera Relish, and Herb and Caper Spread designed to pair up with salumis.

Pickled vegetables

The Tillen Farms collection from Stonewall Kitchens presents a line of crisp, pickled vegetables like classic asparagus, baby cucumbers and Dilly Beans. This is a great way to add tanginess and crunch to your assortment of cheese, meats, etc. Kansas City Canning Company makes unusual pickled items like pickled radishes, garlic and balsamic pickled grapes.

Honey

A drizzle of honey over a slice of bread topped with a bit of cheese, maybe a paper-thin slice of prosciutto, is a total treat. Vermont-based Runamok has a serious selection of honeys to play with: Try

those infused with hibiscus flower, Arbol chiles or lemon verbena, to name a few.

Mustards

Mustard is a must-have condiment for me in all ways, and a swipe matched up with a slice of salami and cheese on a cracker is a perfect bite. Maille, started in 1747 in France, is one of the pre-eminent makers of Dijon mustard, and you can choose from a classic style, like Rich Country Dijon, or go for one spiked with horseradish. Stonewall makes loads of mustard varieties like Maine Maple Champagne Mustard or Caramelized Onion Mustard. Brooklyn Mustard makes a Delhi Curry Mustard that will bring an unexpected twist to your board.

Pizza

from Page 1

Pizza mac and cheese

Makes: 6 to 8 servings Kosher salt

12 ounces dried cellentani or cavatappi pasta (about

4 cups) 1 small yellow onion

4 cloves garlic 3 tablespoons unsalted butter

3 tablespoons tomato paste 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour

11/2 teaspoons dried oregano 1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes, plus more for garnish 3 cups whole milk 6 cups shredded mozzarella cheese (1½ pounds),

1 cup prepared pizza sauce or marinara

divided

1/2 cup mini pepperoni slices 4 large fresh basil leaves 1. Arrange a rack in the center of the oven and heat the oven to 375 degrees. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add 12 ounces dried cellentani or cavatappi pasta and cook until al dente according to package instructions. Meanwhile, finely chop 1 small yellow onion (about 1

cup) and 4 garlic cloves. 2. When the pasta is ready, drain and set aside. 3. Meanwhile, melt 3

tablespoons unsalted butter in a large saucepan over medium-high heat. Add the onion and cook, stirring frequently, until softened, about 4 minutes. Add the garlic and cook, stirring occasionally, until light golden-brown, about 1 minute. Add 3 tablespoons tomato paste and 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour and cook, stirring constantly, until lightly toasted, about 1 minute. 4. Add 1 1/2 teaspoons dried oregano, 1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes and 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt, and stir to combine. While whisking constantly, slowly pour in 3 cups whole milk. Bring to a boil. Boil, stirring frequently, until the mixture is thick enough to coat the back of a spoon, about 4 to

6 minutes.



Pizza mac and cheese: two favorites in one cheesy dish. LAURA REGE/THEKITCHN.COM

5. Reduce heat to low. Add 41/2 cups of the mozzarella, one handful at a time, stirring until melted before adding the next handful. Add the pasta and stir to combine. Taste and season with more kosher salt as needed.

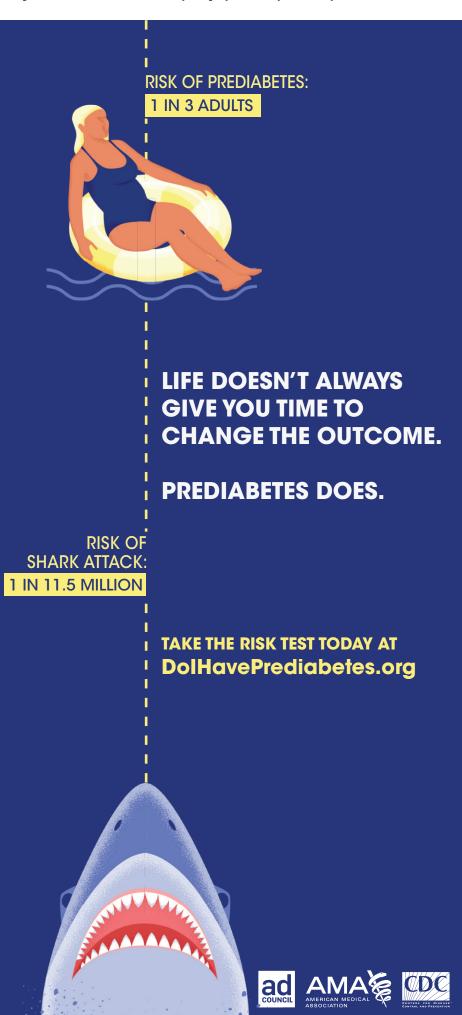
6. Scrape the mixture into a 2-quart baking dish and spread into an even layer. Spoon 1 cup pizza sauce evenly over the top. Sprinkle with the remaining 1 ½ cups mozzarella and arrange 1/2 cup pepperoni slices over

7. Bake until bubbling and the cheese on top is melted, 20 to 25 minutes. If you want a browned top, turn the oven to broil and broil until the cheese is goldenbrown in spots, about 2 minutes more. Let cool 10 minutes before serving. Meanwhile, thinly slice 4 large leaves fresh basil. Sprinkle over the baked macaroni and cheese and

sprinkle with more red pepper flakes if desired

before serving.

the cheese



No-sweat answers to basic wine questions

The single most important act is drinking the wine

By Eric Asimov The New York Times

The first and most important thing to know about drinking wine is this: There are no rules.

For an experience that ought to be entirely pleasurable, many people spend far too much time fearing that they are doing it wrong. This is especially true of people new to wine, who often find the onslaught of well-meaning advice and prescriptions to be intimidating and off-putting.

Here's the reality: Over many years, wine experts have developed a set of best practices. These are based on experience and tradition. For example, they have found that good wine is generally more expressive when poured properly into a stemmed glass rather than a teacup or tumbler.

From that simple insight arises a host of worries. What glass should I use? How much wine to pour into it? How do I hold the glass? What if I don't have the right ones?

All good questions. Yet, none of the answers are so meaningful that they should diminish the enjoyment of the single most important act: Pouring wine into a glass — any glass, even a teacup — and drinking it.

What follows is not quite a primer, but answers to some common wine questions. All have their best practices. None have serious consequences for not following them.

Which glasses?

Any vessel that holds liquids can be used to drink wine. Tumblers and juice glasses are fine if you are enjoying simple wines at home or with friends. Fancy, expensive wines will still taste good in them, too, although they taste even



ANNA GODEASSI/THE NEW YORK TIMES

better in good stemmed glasses. If you care enough to want to learn about wine. stemmed glasses are a great investment, as they will permit complex wines to express aromas and flavors to their best advantage.

How much to pour?

Fill smaller glasses one-third of the way never more than half — and bigger glasses, maybe a quarter. This allows aromas to fill the bowl and offers room in the glass to swirl, as many people do, believing it helps to release aromas. In tumblers, pour whatever amount you like. I'm not a fan of stemless bowls, but if you like them, treat them as you would stems.

How to hold a wineglass?

Ideally, hold it by the stem, which keeps the wine from being warmed by your hand and prevents finger smudges. But if you grab the bowl, no big deal;

it's not going to change the wine. And don't be the snob telling others how to hold a glass unless they seek your

How long is wine good after opening?

That depends. A traditionally made wine will be good for at least several days after it's opened, maybe even longer. You will not need any special equipment such as vacuum pumps. Just keep the bottle in a cool place out of direct sunlight, or in the refrigerator. A processed wine, constructed and manipulated with technology and additives, will fall apart much more quickly. Refrigerate and hope for the best.

What about sparkling wines?

The same holds for bubbly. If it is skillfully and traditionally made, it can keep for days without losing energy or effervescence. A wine made poorly or overly manipulated will die. A good sparkling-wine stopper is nice to have, but in a pinch, you can close a bottle with aluminum foil, fitted snugly around the opening. Foil is far superior, though more wasteful, than the folk trick of inserting a metal spoon, handle down, in the opening, which has been discredited.

Can red wines be chilled?

Absolutely. Most reds are served too warm. The old saw that they should be served at room temperature was probably written by somebody with a chilly manor house. All reds should be at least slightly cool, and reds that are simple thirst-quenchers high in acidity can be served colder than that. In general, reds that are more tannic or complex should be served cool but not cold. Still, what's the worst that can happen if they are too

cold? Let them warm up, or wrap your hands around the bowl of the wineglass to impart some heat.

l'm not an expert. How do I know what wine to buy?

The absolute best method for choosing better wines is to consult the experts face to face, not those on apps. For retail, that means visiting the best wine shops near you instead of supermarkets and soliciting advice from merchants. It's good to have some basic information ready: Know your budget. Mention if the bottle is for a particular occasion — to accompany sushi or a roast chicken. Keep a list on your phone of wines you have liked, which may offer clues to styles you appreciate. At restaurants, ask the sommelier for advice. Again, be clear about your budget.

Won't sommeliers try to upsell me?

They might. But good restaurants count on return customers. Taking advantage of people builds resentment, not loyalty. It helps to be firm with your budget but, at the same time, to be a little flexible if possible. The best wine for you may cost a tad more than your budget, or sometimes a bit less. A sommelier offering options is not the same as one trying to exploit you. In the end, it's your decision, so don't hesitate to politely say no if your budget is firm.

How do I describe wine?

Here we get into some difficult territory. Taste and smell are a frontier for describing what you sense. The overly specific references people sometimes use tend to be more meaningful as personal memory aids than for communicating preferences. In speaking to merchants or sommeliers, you are better off staying general. Saying you love big, fruity red wines is clearer than saying you like wines that taste like cherry pie and road tar.

Here are some other useful generalities:

- Dry: This means that all the sugar in the fruit has been fermented into alcohol. The wine will not taste sweet, except in Champagne, which has its own lexicon. When, in other contexts, you would say dry, the word in Champagne is brut.
- Off-dry: Slightly sweet. ■ Sweet: You know this one. The wine will taste
- Fruity: Not the same as sweet, although the industry has sometimes blurred the difference to avoid calling a wine sweet, which has bad connotations with some people. Fruity means as it sounds, tasting like fruit, often extravagantly so. Confusion also arises with ultraripe wines that can be both fruity and high in alcohol, which can give the impression of sweetness even if the wine is dry.



Savory miso balances one-note bananas Foster

By Christopher Kimball For Associated Press

Start the new year with a bang — or how about a flambe?

The appropriately festive bananas Foster was invented in 1951 at Brennan's on Bourbon Street in New Orleans, where fortunes were made importing the tropical fruit. Torching a mixture of brown sugar, rum and liqueurs creates a delicious caramel on this American classic, usually served with vanilla ice cream melting into the warm sauce.

The trouble is, it can be exceedingly sweet. So we went in search of balance for

Miso-spiced rum bananas Foster

Total time: 20 minutes

½ cup spiced rum

Makes: 4 servings 3 tablespoons salted butter, cut into 3 pieces 3 tablespoons honey 1 tablespoon white miso 2 bananas, peeled, halved lengthwise then crosswise Vanilla ice cream, to serve

a big-flavor update. For this recipe from our book "COOKish," which limits recipes to just six ingredients without sacrificing flavor, the solution was miso. The Japanese fermented soy paste may sound odd in a dessert, but using a touch of it in the sauce balances the sweetness with a delicious savoriness

Honey instead of sugar adds floral nuance that complements the miso. We use spiced rum as a one-ingredient way to infuse the buttery sauce with peppery flavor and aroma. Cooking the fruit in a skillet may not offer the flash of setting it on fire tableside, but doing so concentrates the flavors in the banana.

In a Dutch oven over medium, melt the butter. Stir in the honey and miso. Add the bananas and cook, stirring carefully so as not to bruise the bananas, until the sauce is slightly darker in color, about 2 minutes. Off heat, pour in the rum. Return to medium and cook, stirring carefully, until the alcohol no longer smells raw, about 2 minutes. Divide the bananas and sauce among 4 serving bowls, then top with ice cream. Optional garnish: Chinese five-spice

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A whole roasted chicken develops gloriously crispy skin thanks to the increased flow of hot air around the low sides of the sheet pan. CHRISTOPHER TESTANI/THE NEW YORK TIMES PHOTOS

Chicken soup for the weary soul

Resolve to reconnect with the joy in cooking during the new year

By Eric Kim The New York Times

he very first time I boiled a whole chicken, nearly 10 years ago, I was overwhelmed by how much it perfumed my apartment with the scent of my mother's kitchen. I wasn't trying to re-create her samgyetang, but I did, by accident.

Fortified with ginseng and jujubes, this Korean chicken soup is a garlic lover's dream. I remember how the sound of the cloves, plunked into the pot, echoed the syllables of the dish's name: Sam.

But it was the smell of my golden broth that transported me. When I inhaled its aroma, the past ran through me like an electric current, and I burst into tears. Sick with nostalgia (and a gnarly cold), I found myself suddenly in two places at once: my kitchenette in New York City and Atlanta, where I was born and raised in a brick house with a peach tree in the front yard.

There are many definitions of the sensation that overtook my body that day, but perhaps the most famous is what French novelist Marcel Proust called involuntary memory - what we now sometimes call "Proustian memory." It is a reference to one particular scene in his seven-volume novel "In Search of Lost Time," in which the narrator is suddenly seized by childhood memories after taking a bite of a tea-soaked lemon madeleine.

"No sooner had the warm liquid mixed with the crumbs touched my palate than a shudder ran through me and I stopped, intent upon the extraordinary thing that was happening to me," Proust writes. "Whence could it have come to me, this all-powerful joy?"

When those unbidden memories happen in my life, I try to linger in the feeling.

What excites me in the kitchen, and what provides the most joy, is when I accidentally tap into something old, an involuntary memory, something I had forgotten in the depths of my mind, such as the simple smell of a chicken boiling in water.

That's the kind of cooking I'd like to do more of in the new year. If I resolve to find those small moments of "all-powerful joy" in the kitchen and out, at my desk and in life, maybe they'll be more likely to reveal themselves to me. Maybe I'll taste more Proustian madeleines, and maybe I'll cry more. (Crying has many health benefits, after all.)

Luckily, there are many places to find good madeleines dipped



Roasted chicken stock is a golden elixir that starts with the leftover carcass of a roasted chicken.

Roasted chicken stock

Makes: 1 1/2 to 2 quarts Total time: 1 hour, 10 minutes 1 leftover carcass from a whole roasted chicken, meat picked off and saved for another use 1 large yellow onion 1 head of garlic 8 small or 4 large dried bay leaves

1 tablespoon kosher salt (Diamond Crystal) or 1 1/2 teaspoons coarse kosher salt

1 tablespoon whole black peppercorns

¼ teaspoon ground turmeric

1. To make this stock in an Instant Pot: Add the chicken carcass to a 3- or 6-quart Instant Pot or other electric pressure cooker. Chop the onion into eighths, and slice the garlic head in half crosswise to expose the cloves; dump the alliums into the pot over the chicken. Crush the bay leaves and add, along with the salt, black peppercorns and turmeric. Add enough cold water to reach the max line in the 3-quart or to cover the bones in the 6-quart (5 to 6 cups). Gently stir and cover with the lid. Pressure-cook on high for 1 hour and let the pressure release naturally.

2. To make this stock on the stove: Follow Step 1, but place all of the ingredients, including the water, into a large heavy-bottomed pot, such as a Dutch oven or stock pot, and gently stir. Bring to a boil over high heat, then immediately reduce the heat to maintain a gentle simmer. Cover and cook until the stock is deeply golden, the chicken bones are falling apart at the joints when you try to pick them up and the vegetables have turned to

mush, about 3 hours. 3. Strain the contents of the pot through a colander set over a large bowl; press the bones to get out all of the liquid. Taste for seasoning, adjusting with salt as desired. Ladle the stock into large mugs for sipping, or use as an ingredient in your cooking. Alternatively, you can let the strained stock cool slightly before transferring into quart containers and storing in the refrigerator.

4. This chicken stock will keep in the refrigerator for 3 to 4 days or in the freezer for up to 4 months. Heat individual portions in coffee mugs to drink in the morning for breakfast, or use as a base for soups, stews and porridges throughout the week.

in tea, metaphorically speaking. And when you're most in need of warmth and succor, chicken soup is never a bad place to start.

It's never lost on me what a privilege it is to get to cook for a living. But there are days when I languish in the kitchen, utterly sick of cooking. (It's the cleaning that destroys me most.) And especially this past year, when it seemed that the world was falling apart again, I found it difficult at times to find joy in any of it.

come by if you have to do it. My last-meal-on-earth cooking is roasting chicken. I love prepar-

Comfort cooking can be hard to

ing a small bird for myself on the weekend, because that's when I have all the time in the world. In this case, the process provides the joy. I can salt and sugar the chicken on Saturday, leaving it to dry-brine in the fridge overnight; on Sunday, my dinner is ready for the oven.

The eating is long, too: Roast chicken has many stages of life -I can cook it once and have it for days. Because as much as I love cooking, I love eating more.

First, it's dinner, often the gorgeous chicken breast, absolutely juicy, with crispy skin. Better yet, if you're like my mother and me, your favorite parts of the chicken are a secret: the two "oysters" underneath the bird, tucked behind the thighs, tender and slicked with schmaltz. One for each of us.

After this first meal, I like to maul the rest of the meat off the bones to fashion into all manner of repasts throughout the week. Then — and this may be my favorite part — I turn the carcass into stock with whatever bits and bobs I have left over in the pantry: bay leaves, black peppercorns, an onion with its peel still on (which my mother taught me lends both color and flavor to soups and stews).

The Instant Pot makes quick work of this. In just an hour, it will pressure-cook my past, present and future into a golden stock that I can drink in the mornings before my coffee.

Roast chicken may be my therapy, but chicken soup is my panacea, my madeleine dipped in tea.

Roasted chicken with caramelized cabbage

Makes: 4 servings Total time: 1 hour, 20 minutes, plus 1 hour brining Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

2 teaspoons fennel seeds 1 tablespoon packed dark brown

1 whole (3- to 4-pound) chicken 21/2 pounds green cabbage (about 1 large head), cored and cut into 1-inch pieces

1 large yellow onion, halved and thinly sliced

5 tablespoons olive oil 1 tablespoon sherry vinegar

1. In a small dish, stir together 1 1/2 tablespoons Diamond Crystal kosher salt or 1 tablespoon Morton's coarse kosher salt. I teaspoon black pepper, 1 teaspoon fennel seeds and the brown sugar.

2. Place the chicken on a large plate or sheet pan and, with a paper towel, pat the surface of the chicken as dry as you can. Remove any giblets from the cavity and reserve for another time. Sprinkle one-third of the spice mixture into the cavity of the chicken, focusing especially on the underside of the breasts. Use your hands to really rub the spices into the cavity. Now, sprinkle the rest of the spice mixture all over the surface of the chicken, including the bottom but especially the top, where the breasts are, and again, really rub it into the skin. If roasting right away, let the chicken sit at room temperature for at least 1 hour. Alternatively, you can place the chicken, uncovered, in the refrigerator to dry-brine for up to 24 hours; just be sure to let it sit out at room temperature for at least 1 hour before roasting.

3. While the chicken is coming to room temperature, position a rack on the bottom third of the oven and heat the oven to 425 degrees. On a large sheet pan, add the cabbage, onion, 4 tablespoons olive oil and the remaining 1 teaspoon fennel seeds. Season generously with salt and pepper, and toss until evenly combined. Push the cabbage and onions to the edges of the pan to make room for the chicken, and place the chicken in the center of the pan, breast-side up; the chicken should have direct contact with the pan and not be sitting over any of the vegetables. Massage the remaining 1 tablespoon olive oil onto the chicken and give it a final generous sprinkling of salt and pepper (going lighter on the seasoning the longer the chicken has been dry-brined). 4. Roast the chicken, rotating the

pan halfway through, until the skin is golden brown and crispy, and the thigh meat reaches 160 degrees on an instant-read thermometer (it will continue to cook as it rests), 40 to 55 minutes or 13 minutes per pound. Do not cut into it to check that the juices run clear. The cabbage and onions should be soft and slightly charred in spots.

5. Let the chicken rest for at least 15 minutes on the pan before transferring to a cutting board and carving into portions. Don't forget to turn the carcass over and eat the two "oysters" on the bottom of the chicken where the back of the thighs meet the spine. It's arguably the best part of the roast chicken experience, and the chef's treat. 6. Add the vinegar to the cabbage and onions, toss until evenly distributed and taste for seasoning, adjusting with salt and pepper. Serve alongside the chicken.